

THE
C A S E
O F T H E
H. Greenwich Hospital
Royal Hospital for SEAMEN,
A T

G R E E N W I C H;
CONTAINING

A Comprehensive View of the INTERNAL GOVERNMENT,

IN WHICH ARE STATED

The several Abuses that have been introduced into that Great NATIONAL
ESTABLISHMENT,

WHEREIN

LANDMEN have been appointed to Offices contrary to CHARTER;

The ample REVENUES wasted in useless Works;

AND

MONEY obtained, by Petition to PARLIAMENT, to make good Deficiencies;
The WARDS torn down, and converted into elegant Apartments for CLERKS
and their DEPUTIES;

The PENSIONERS fed with *Bull Beef*, and sour *Small Beer*, mixed with Water;

AND

The CONTRACTORS, after having been convicted of the most enormous
Frauds, suffered to compound the Penalties,—and renew their Contract.

WITH AN

A P P E N D I X;

CONTAINING

Original Papers, Extracts from the Charter, Book of Instructions, &c. Proceedings of the
General Courts, Board of Directors and Council, with other authentic Documents.

AND ALSO

A M E M O R I A L

TO THE

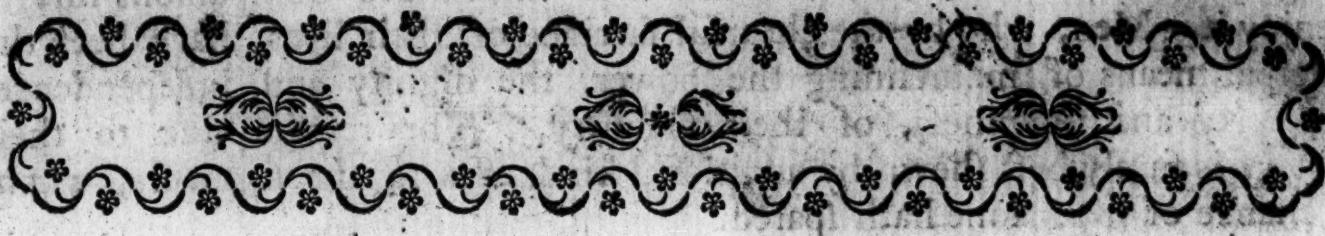
GENERAL COURT of COMMISSIONERS and GOVERNORS,

FROM THE

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR of the said ROYAL HOSPITAL,

In Behalf of the Pensioners, &c.

Royal Hospital, March 2, 1778.



THE

C A S E

O F

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

I T may reasonably be presumed, that any real Information concerning a Foundation so truly national as the Royal Hospital at Greenwich, will be thought of importance. This Country owes so much to the careless gallantry of a Seaman's temper, that an old-age of poverty, which so frequently succeeds a life of service, is in him particularly interesting. The reflection is therefore highly pleasing, that this Hospital for the relief of Seamen, and the encouragement of Navigation, is the noblest establishment, for this purpose, in the world. It must be considered amongst the principal regalia of a great commercial State, and does honour to the humanity of our national character.

To the passing Fleets it gives the most grateful idea of the cares of the Public for those brave Men, who, having assisted in the most important acquisitions and victories, are (when disabled or worn out in service) provided for in this comfortable retreat, in a manner consistent with the dignity of

their Benefactors, and the justice of their claim; a claim which is much strengthened by the reflection, that so few of their brave Companions survive to enjoy it—Men, who by the cheerful sacrifice of their lives, have been the principal means of maintaining the power, the dignity and independence, the liberty and happiness, of their Country. The respect due to their memory is surely best shewn by additional kindnesses to the survivors, whom the chance of war alone hath spared.

The Royal Grants, Commissions, and Charters, and the Acts of Parliament confirming those Grants, every where express the highest sense of the importance, and the most zealous cares for the maintenance, support, and due administration of this truly Royal Hospital. The Charter incorporates The Princes of the Blood, the Archbishops, the Lord High Chancellor, the great Officers of State in all the different departments (particularly the Boards of Admiralty and Treasury,) the whole body of the Privy Council, the Speaker of the House of Commons, all the Judges and principal Law Officers, all the Admirals and Flag Officers, the Judges and Officers of the Admiralty Courts, the Commissioners of the Navy, the Lord Mayor and three Senior Aldermen of *London*, the Master and five elder Brethren of the Trinity House, the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Treasurer, Auditor, and the rest of the Directors of the Hospital, with several others, who are there particularly named, and declared to be “One Body Politic and Corporate, “ by the name of the COMMISSIONERS and GOVERNORS of the ROYAL “ HOSPITAL for SEAMEN, at GREENWICH.”

The highest, most sacred, and important characters in the Nation, are thus constituted the Guardians and Administrators of this munificent Establishment: And, in order to prevent the inconvenience which would attend the frequent meetings of this splendid Corporation, Twenty-four Gentlemen, amongst whom are Admirals, Merchants, and Men of independent fortune, are appointed to be a standing Committee, and styled the DIRECTORS of the Hospital, being required and commanded to meet once a fortnight, or oftener, to consult concerning the affairs of the said Hospital. These Directors are authorized, under the controul and inspection of the General Court of Commissioners and Governors, “To carry on and complete the Building—to make contracts for Provisions, Cloaths, and all other necessaries—to state Accounts to the General Board—to place out the Children educated in the Hospital, “ and to do all things relating thereto.”

It is also understood, that the care of managing the Estates and Revenues, of examining the Accounts of the several Receivers, and, in general, all

things relating to the expenditure of Money (subject to the final controul of the General Court) are left to the determination of this Board.

The Government of the House, within the walls, is by a Governor and Council, selected from the Officers of experience and reputation in the Navy; and retains much of the forms established on board his Majesty's Ships of War, except that obedience is enforced, not by corporal punishments, but by small fines, badges of disgrace, or, in flagrant cases, expulsion.

The Council and Officers on rota for the week, are also required, in the general Orders, to attend to any just complaints that shall be peaceably and regularly made "concerning the quantity or quality of their Provisions, or "of the stopping thereof, or of their weekly Allowance-money, or Wages; "or of any thing else allowed them by the Establishment of the Hospital: "And they, the Council, are to apply a proper remedy without delay; that "is, by immediate redress on the spot, or by stating the complaint to the Admiralty."

The Council and the Board of Directors are entirely independant of each other, their duties being in a different line; and the distinctions are marked with care. It is particularly provided that the Officers to whom the care of the Internal Government is intrusted, shall not in any manner concern themselves with making any Contract, or with any other business, within the province of the Board of Directors; nor have the Directors any power whatever in the Rule and Order of the House, which is entirely Naval, under the controul of the Council, and subject to the directions of the Lords of the Admiralty*.

The two Boards are considered as mutual checks on each other; the Council being required, in their Commission, to state any complaint to the Admiralty, which it may not be in their power to redress, for further directions therein; and the Directors have received frequent encouragement to give information.

B 2

* The Founders, intending to place the executive power, or rather care of the well-being, and comfort of the Pensioners, principally in the hands of the Governor and Officers, seem to have apprehended that the constitution they meant to establish was principally in danger of infringement from that quarter. They have accordingly delegated the necessary powers in very guarded terms.

It will hereafter be fully shewn, how far they are justified in this conjecture, and how difficult it is to foresee danger in the right place.

formation concerning any matter which may appear to them to be improper in the Government of the House*.

A Book of Instructions, containing Bye-Laws, Rules, and Orders of the General Courts, and the Council of Officers for the better Government of the House (in which the duty of every Officer, Clerk, and Servant, is particularly stated and explained) has from time to time been examined and confirmed by the General Court of Commissioners.

The establishment of the Officers, Pensioners, Clerks, and Servants, with their Salaries, Wages, and Allowances, has been formed with equal care and circumspection;—Provisions, Cloathing, the quantity and quality of all kinds of Stores, settled down to the minutest trifle;—nothing left to the improper exercise of discretion, no room for doubt or mistake. Fraud, negligence, and incapacity, are guarded against by various prudent regulations, all of which are, with the most anxious care, calculated to prevent any misapplication of the Revenues, or deviation from the great and SOLE object of the Founders, which is expressly stated, *in the first Commissions*, “ to be for the relief of “ poor disabled SEAMEN, in such a manner as may best tend to increase the “ Navigation and Naval Strength of the Kingdom, by encouraging fit “ persons to betake themselves to the Sea-Service†.

The Funds which have been at different times appropriated for the support of this Hospital, by the generosity of Princes, particularly the Great Founder, WILLIAM the Third; the *Derwentwater* Estate, given by GEORGE the First, and confirmed by his Successor; the frequent Bounties of Parliament, amounting to above Three Hundred Thousand Pounds; and the Legacies of private Persons (amongst which that of Mr. Osbolsden stands particularly distinguished) seem to be so ample, as to answer fully the great ends proposed; as will fully appear from the following Abstract of an Estimate taken in the year 1778.

* Extract of a Letter from the Secretary of the Admiralty to the Governor of the Hospital, May 15, 1742.
“ Their Lordships do very well know, that the Directors have no power but in the management
“ of the Revenues and Estates of the Hospital, and in carrying on the works of the Building;
“ nor did they assume any on this occasion: But their Lordships shall always take well of them
“ any informations that tend to rectify any mistakes or omissions whatever concerning the State of
“ the Hospital.”

See Three Letters at large from the Secretary of the Admiralty in the year 1742, in Appendix, p. 29, 30.

† All these very expressive and important words are omitted in the New Charter; and others, less significant, substituted in their room.

	£. s. d.
The Derwentwater Estate, including the Lead Mines, as reported to Parliament a few years ago,	} 21,000 0 0
Interest of 257,385 <i>l.</i> . 16 <i>s.</i> . 8 <i>d.</i> * Bank Stock, and South-Sea Annuities,	} 7,771 11 6
Six-pence per month per man, for 57,000 Seamen and Marines, now employed in the King's Service,	} 18,525 0 0
Ditto, for at least 30,000 Men in the Merchants' service	9,750 0 0
† The Foreland Lights, the Legacy of Mr. Osbolsden	3,231 9 10
Half-Pay of the Officers of the House	1,368 19 0
Rents in Greenwich and London	186 18 0
All forfeited and unclaimed shares of Prize-money are paid to Greenwich Hospital. This sometimes amounts to large sums; and there is upwards of 70,000 <i>l.</i> due from the West-India Islands, which has not been received, as it is alledged, for want of powers. There has been paid in, upon an average for many years, above Five Thousand Pounds.	} 5,730 10 0
	<hr/> £. 67,564 8 8

The number of Seamen, and the probability of Prize-money, is now increased, and in a general War rises much higher; so that the present Revenues may be reckoned at least at Sixty Thousand Pounds a year.

Thus every thing that could be suggested by the most grateful ideas of past services, or of the importance of the Institution, as an inducement for Seamen to enter into the service of their King and Country, appears to have been fully accomplished. Sixty Thousand Pounds per annum, under the management and controul of the greatest men in the Nation, whose wisdom and integrity cannot be doubted, appropriated solely to the maintenance of wounded and disabled Seamen, in ease and comfort, in the splendid Palace

* This sum has accumulated from the unclaimed Shares of Prize-money, from which the Hospital received about 100,000*l.* in the course of the late Wars; and from the surpluses of Parliamentary Grants, 10,000*l.* having been voted for thirty years successively, as a matter of course, till Mr. PETER BURRIL, a worthy and independent Director of the Hospital, informed the House that the Money was unnecessary, the settled Revenues being amply sufficient to maintain as many Pensioners as could be received into the Hospital.

† This princely bequest, from a Merchant who had himself been a Seafaring Man, could never have been intended for any other purpose than the maintenance of Seamen only.

which has been erected for their reception, seems to have been provided by the most beneficent spirit, and directed by the most consummate wisdom. Yet notwithstanding all this; notwithstanding the anxious wish to form a government, and mode of administration, too great to suffer corruption to approach it, and too wise to permit any perversion of this favourite object, there has perhaps never been an instance, in which the fallibility of human judgement, or the weakness and insufficiency of all speculative institutions, have been more apparent than in the present.

Greenwich Hospital was one of the eldest born children of the Revolution; the minds of men were elevated by that glorious event; public business was particularly interesting and honourable. At a time when the pure flame of Liberty and Public Spirit burnt with such uncommon brightness, it was natural that a blaze of enthusiasm should attend this establishment, which is so truly popular. It was this enthusiasm which directed that a Palace should be finished, rather than an Hospital built, for the reception of wounded and disabled Seamen; and placed the care of the Institution in the hands of all those who preside in every department of Government.

Whilst the Hospital was a new establishment, or whilst any of the Commissioners or Directors remained, who had felt the ardour which ever attends new Institutions (and which in this instance was so particularly strong) every thing appears to have been conducted agreeably to the most flattering first wish; But a century is now nearly elapsed, and no motives remain on the minds of the present Commissioners or Directors which are sufficient to procure an unremitting attention to the internal regulation, in order to preserve an Establishment, which is understood to be long since completely settled, and on which the public attention seems no longer fixed.

Any person unacquainted with the nature of public business, on reading the list of Commissioners and Directors, might be led to suppose that a General Court of the Corporation of *Greenwich Hospital* would, from the number of its constituents, and the noble characters of the individuals, be one of the most respectable and efficient Assemblies in the Kingdom. Such an one alone would be surprised, when he is informed that the whole is a splendid nothing; for, except the Lords of the Admiralty, and seven or eight of the Directors (who are connected with the Hospital by motives which have a more familiar operation on the conduct of Men than a disinterested regard for the Public Good) scarcely one of the whole Body has ever appeared at a General Board, or in any manner concerned himself with the affairs of *Greenwich Hospital* for many years. This disuse has continued so long, that it is highly probable some of this respectable Body do not themselves know, that they

are Governors or Commissioners of the Hospital; otherwise, from the activity and spirit with which they fulfil every other duty, it is probable they might sometimes attend to this; but so completely is the neglect sanctioned by custom, that even the Lords of the Treasury, the President and Members of the Privy Council, who are by the Charter, with the Lords of the Admiralty, declared to be of the Quorum*, are equally inattentive: And as the management and controul of the Hospital, with the appointment of Officers, Pensioners, Clerks, Nurses, &c. &c. is understood in the routine of business, to be in the Lords, or rather in the First Lord of the Admiralty, any attempt to exercise the right, or fulfil the duty of a Commissioner, or to attend at the General Courts, as a Member of the Quorum, would probably be understood to be an improper interference †.

All this is the natural consequence of the original mistake, that the popular nature of the institution would alone continue to induce a sufficient number of those who are constituted its perpetual Guardians to pay a regular attention to the business.

It may perhaps be urged, that the Members of all Corporations, the Directors and Guardians of public Charities and other similar Institutions, are supposed to act, and, generally speaking, really do act with zeal and attention, in promoting the welfare of the objects under their care. It is equally true, that the management of such Corporations, &c. is much more in the eye of mankind than

* Though it is declared, by the Charter, that Three Members, either of Admiralty, Treasury, or Privy-Council, shall be present at all General Courts to constitute a Quorum, and without whom a General Court cannot be legally held; yet, notwithstanding, a General Court was held at the Admiralty, in which much business was transacted, on the 22d of December, 1777, when no such Members were present, except the Lords Sandwich and Mulgrave only; the rest of the Court was composed of the Sixpenny Receiver, the Surveyor, and Chaplain of the Hospital, &c. However, on the next Board-day at Greenwich, the names of three Lords of the Admiralty appeared signed to the proceedings of the Court, though two only were present.

† The General Courts are held at the Admiralty (though the Painted Hall in the Hospital would, on many occasions, be the most proper place) and the manner in which they are conducted is evidently calculated to prevent any Man of rank or independent character from attending them. The first Lord, with one or two other Members of the Admiralty Board, seat themselves in the middle of a room, attended by their Secretary, who is employed in the common business of his Office; the Secretary to the Directors places himself at his side; and the Commissioners are seated in the chairs and windows behind the backs of the Admiralty Lords; the Governor of the Hospital, as the place of honour, always setting behind the chair of the first Lord. —— This seems a strange reception for the Court of Commissioners, of which the Princes of the Blood and the first Officers of the State are Members; and this has been given as a reason for non-attendance by Gentlemen whose care of the interests of the Hospital has on other occasions been highly serviceable.

than the internal regulations of this Hospital; and also that particular care is taken (generally by annual election) to procure a constant rotation of those Magistrates, or Directors, who are expected to pay a regular and active attention to such public business.

But here even the Court of Directors, on whom the weight of the business ultimately rests, are appointed for life to an office without public honour, or honourable emolument; and are yet required and commanded to meet every ten days, alternately at Greenwich, and at *Salter's-Hall, London*, to consult concerning the various and important affairs of the Hospital.

Ten Shillings are indeed allowed for every actual attendance, with the restrictive words, "To those who shall think it reasonable to demand it;" which certainly carries a marked air of dissatisfaction, at the idea of the demand being really made. It is, however, universally demanded, and amounts to Eighteen Pounds Ten Shillings per annum to those who attend at every Board*. This sum is certainly no object to persons of independent character, by whom the duties were expected to be fulfilled, and therefore serves little other purpose than to degrade the office of Director.—The consequences are such, as must naturally be expected. Out of twenty-four Directors, many never appear at the Board, except when it is their turn to present a Boy to be maintained out of the Charity Stock; others, who attend, seemingly from habit, seldom interfere in the business, or stay after the Secretary has taken notice of their being present, and thus give their sanction to whatever may be the proceedings of the meeting—their names appearing in the records of the Hospital at the head of some very curious and important proceedings, to the real nature of which they are probably at this time total strangers.

The Board is notwithstanding very regularly attended, and there is scarcely an instance, in which there have not been five Members present, which is the number necessary to constitute a board; for, however improbable it may appear, there are among the present Directors of the Hospital, several of those persons who are concerned in the receipt and expenditure of its revenues; and whose accounts it is a material part of the business of the Board to examine and controul, as also to receive the reports, and give directions to the Stewards of the *Derwentwater* estate, who are equally well qualified to perform the same

* Twenty Shillings are ordered in the first Commissions to be allowed for each attendance, and the reduction to ten was probably held to be a very economical regulation, as it certainly reduced the number of attendances, particularly amongst those Directors who had not business of their own to take care of at the Board. The power of admitting the Pensioners was formerly exercised by the Directors; an office which must have been highly grateful to men of humanity.—This is now solely in the Lords of the Admiralty.

office to them. In this task they are aided and assisted by several others, who are so far from being in that independent situation, which was intended as an indispensable qualification for a Director of *Greenwich Hospital*, that they never presume to exercise their judgment on any subject which may be proposed to them, but invariably give their vote agreeable to the directions they receive.

Thus, instead of a government of that perfect kind, which might naturally be expected from the anxious care which breathes through every line of the original instruments by which it is established; *that* which has been eventually formed, is rather a burlesque on authority, as nothing can be more absurd, than to appoint persons, with all the grave solemnity of real business, to examine into, and controul their own conduct, to check and point out objections to their own accounts.

Amongst the Directors of this class, are the Receiver, * the Accomptant, and the Comptroller of the Sixpenny office, and the Surveyor of the Hospital; † who, instead of sitting as Members of the Board, and forming a majority to examine their own accounts, ought to be called in and examined, as Servants to the Hospital, and leave the deliberations on the matter to persons less interested in the issue.

There are also Commissioners of the Navy and Victualling Offices, some of whom are able and respectable members of the board; but as those lately appointed are dependents, and in the line of preferment, it will hardly be expected that they will act with the necessary degree of firmness and spirit in any matter in which the Admiralty is directly or indirectly concerned.

C

But

* The Receiver of the Sixpences from the Merchants' service has generally Twelve Thousand pounds per annum to account for, and also several office expences and disbursements, particularly to his housekeeper, &c. &c. The settlement of such an account might be awkward and disagreeable to him, if the examination on the part of the Hospital was in any other hands than *his own*. He certainly can understand the several articles without enquiry, and may probably consider *vouchers* as totally unnecessary.

+ The Architect of the new Infirmary, who, instead of constructing it, as originally intended, principally for the sick and helpless Pensioners, built it rather as a Palace for Officers, than an Infirmary for Sick: the natural consequence of which is, that there is not room sufficient for the helpless Men; all of whom were intended to be there placed under the immediate care and inspection of the Physician, Surgeon, &c.

The inside of this costly building, which was intended to stand for ages, is already falling to pieces; but this latter defect is easily conceived; for the Contracting Joiner is not only himself a Freeholder of *Huntingdonshire*; but as he is a man of some property there, he raises Officers of the house to that dignity, by splitting his votes, and selling them Forty-shilling Freeholds.

But the principal mischief arises from a less obvious kind of influence. There are, amongst the present Members of the Board, Prize-agents, Ship-builders, and other persons, whose connections with the Admiralty, through various lines of dependence, are so strong, that a ready obedience to the leading measures which govern the House is to them indispensably necessary. † The Secretary to the Admiralty is himself a Prize-agent.

The Surveyor of the Hospital already mentioned is one of the Directors, by which he is constituted a judge of the propriety of any new plans which he, or the Clerk of the Works, may think proper to propose; and has a good opportunity of recommending them from his place. §

One

¶ A material part of the Revenues arises from unclaimed shares of Prize-money, all which (after three years) is forfeited to the Hospital. In time of war it amounts to large sums; and a Prize-agent, who on this account may become considerably indebted to the Hospital, will find any difficulties which occur in the settlement of these demands greatly lessened, by being himself an acting Director. He may also promote or prevent enquiries, as it happens to suit interests very different from those of the Hospital. There now appears to be about Seventy or Eighty Thousand Pounds due from the *West-Indies* only, and which probably had been paid many years ago, if no Prize-agents had been in the direction of the Hospital. The late Charter was said to be obtained to give the legal powers of a Corporation for the recovery of this money: it certainly would have been a good corroboratory measure, to have ordained that no Prize-agent should in future be a Commissioner or Director of *Greenwich Hospital*. The zeal with which this new Corporation now act is conspicuous, as no attempt has been made, in the course of two years, for the recovery of this large sum of money; and what appears still more extraordinary is, that 257,385*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* Bank stock and South-Sea annuities, the property of the Hospital, remains still in trust, instead of being immediately transferred to the Corporation; so that there appears to be no good effect derived from the Charter, though it cost the Hospital above One Thousand Pounds to obtain it.

§ The Painted Hall in the Hospital, which is highly ornamented, agreeable to the ideas of magnificence which were then entertained, has not been used, for many years, for any other purpose than as a spectacle for strangers, to whom it is shewn for three-pence each person.

The Surveyor having represented to his brother Directors, that the Paintings in this Hall wanted cleaning, laid an estimate before the Board, in May, 1777, setting forth, that it measured 53,678 feet; which, at two shillings per foot, the *usual price*, amounted to 5,367*l.* 16*s.* but that a friend of his would undertake to clean the whole for One Thousand Pounds, exclusive of scaffolding, &c. &c.

The Directors, struck with the prodigious advantage attending this friendly offer, immediately adopted and recommended it to a General Court (that is, themselves in another form) who agreed to pay a Thousand Pounds, *exclusive* of scaffolding and other contingencies, for cleaning the said Hall. This was ordered, without the usual form of ascertaining the real value of public works, by advertising for proposals by contract, or consulting any other artist than the Surveyor and his friend. Yet, was there not something staggering in this enormously large deduction? A job amounting to 5367*l.* according to the rates paid by private persons on their own account (for the word *usual* means this, if it has any meaning) the Surveyor's friend undertakes for less than one fifth part of that sum: the Court of Directors (if they believed this) should have done something more than simply accept this proposal *without further enquiry*; a gratuity ought to have been voted for a brokerage so exceedingly beneficial; and the thanks of the Board would still have been due to this paragon of public officers.

But

One of the Chaplains lately appointed has a seat at this Board ; which he bargained and paid money for, under the sanction of the First Lord, and to which he was preferred before all the Captains of the Hospital, who, after having served forty years, had the mortification to see this Clerical Youth placed above them in the Hospital. (See Captain B's letter to Lord *Sandwich*, and his Answer, Appendix, pag. 10. and 11.)

This preferment has evidently turned the Chaplain's head too much to temporal concerns ; and his harangues from the pulpit are rather calculated to procure implicit obedience to the will of the Directors, than to the decrees of Heaven : * a patient submission to the present Managers is, in his opinion, the most acceptable sacrifice. This young man is also Chaplain to the First Lord of the Admiralty, and is understood to be the *confidential* Director ; an office in which he behaves with that active vehemence which usually attends authority, *when usurped*, or improperly delegated.

These, with a few others in similar circumstances, (all of whom are very far from being in the independent situation which was intended as an indispensable qualification for a Director of *Greenwich Hospital*) are generally understood to form the *majority* of the board of Directors ; and such of the more unconnected members, as may wish to interfere on particular occasions, have found, by repeated experience, that it is totally useless ; and therefore the attempt is seldom made. There are doubtless several respectable names yet

C 2

remaining

But, though the Directors made no enquiry, the Paintings are an object of attention to *Connoisseurs*, and this bargain has been much the subject of conversation. It was the opinion of some of the best judges in the kingdom, that nothing could be done to the Grand Cieling, that would not be rather injurious than useful ; and that the rest of the Hall, Vestible, &c. &c. might be cleaned in a masterly manner, for the sum of 250*l.* See an eminent Master's letter to the Directors, in the Appendix, (page 27.) The Painter who has the care of the Chapel (in which there is much gilding, and paintings of a more delicate tint, particularly the Apostles' Heads on the Altar Piece) receives 12*l.* 10*s.* by contract for cleaning it annually, and performs the task with care and attention. He was not consulted in this bargain, but has since declared he would willingly have undertaken all but the Cieling for 50*l.* and in reality it wanted nothing but a careful dusting and washing.

Without pressing farther on these strong appearances of negligence, collusion, or fraud ; or taking notice of the extravagance of spending a Thousand Pounds, &c. &c. on an object comparatively trifling and unnecessary, the whole must be acknowledged a striking instance of the gross impropriety of admitting such an officer as the Surveyor into the direction of the Hospital. Since this extraordinary bargain, 500*l.* has been imprested to the Surveyor's friend, though refused by a preceding Board.

* Many of the elder Pensioners attend the offices of the Church with great devotion ; but they avoid as much as possible the ministration of a Man who takes the advantage of the privileges of the pulpit to insult them and their friends, and to gloss over the grievous oppressions under which they labour, and of which he is himself a principal cause.

remaining in the list of Directors; and Men of worth and honor do sometimes attend the board; but they are either misinformed with regard to the true nature of the proceedings before them, or their votes are lost by a majority: and, as the contest has long been completely decided, the present Acting Members are left to pursue the business of the Hospital in what manner they think proper, with little or no interruption. †

This then is, in fact, all that remains of the Corporation of Greenwich Hospital: all the truly important characters, of which it appears on paper to be composed, all the great Officers of State, Bishops, Judges, Admirals, &c. are, by a kind of jugglers' magic, converted into Seven or Eight Dependents on the will and pleasure of the First Lord of the Admiralty, acting immediately under his controul; the natural consequence of which is, that all the personal views, connections, interests, and prejudices, (whatever they may happen to be) of that First Lord, are the leading motives which govern the Hospital. At present most of the appointments, contracts, grants, and favors, are directed so as to create and support an interest in the County of Huntingdon; Men who have never been at sea in their lives, are appointed to offices as fast as they fall; and it appears from various instances, that to be a Freeholder of Huntingdonshire, or a Burgess of Huntingdon, is a much stronger

+ Except the common business of maintaining this majority, it will be easily conceived that the acting Members are principally engaged in supporting and securing their own interest; and that which ought to be the common business of the Board, is frequently left to chance.

A single instance will be sufficient to evince, in what manner this Standing Committee for the affairs of Greenwich Hospital execute the great trust which is committed to their charge.

In the year 1772, a suspicion arose, that the Steward of the Hospital, from the luxurious manner in which he lived, must have expended more than the known or allowable emoluments of his office, (the common phrase in the Hospital being, that a *Moidore* tree grew in his Garden.) He had, at that time, 26,734*l.* in his hands, outstanding and unsettled, and was still requiring more: it was at length thought prudent, upon the representation of a new Treasurer, that his accounts should be examined, which proved a most laborious task, as they had not been settled for ten years. The result of the examination was, that after making every possible allowance, there appeared to be a deficiency, in the Household Accounts, of 2,051*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* which now stands an unsettled chasm in the Treasurer's books; there appeared also a deficiency, in the Charity Stock, of near 1,500*l.* besides a considerable loss on the Woollen and Linen Cloth, &c. with which he was entrusted, and which could not be ascertained. The Steward, after hovering about the spot, which doubtless he quitted with great reluctance, was at length suffered to withdraw himself entirely from the Hospital, it not being thought prudent to make any farther enquiry into the matter; probably from the persuasion, that the *acting Members* of the Board of Directors formed a very improper tribunal to examine into, or prosecute an affair of this kind, as the judges and the culprit might have been mutual accusers.

Had this peculation proceeded from an avaricious, rather than a profuse spirit, the casual observation which produced the discovery, would never have occurred; and how long it would have been before a stop had been put to it by a regular examination of the accounts, it is not easy to determine.

stronger claim to places of trust and profit in Greenwich Hospital, than the most ample certificate of services in similar offices at Sea.

This enormous deviation from the Charter, defeats, in a most essential point, the great end for which the Hospital was built, and so nobly endowed. Did no other grievance subsist, this is alone sufficient to create a necessity for a speedy and effectual enquiry into the causes which have deprived the Navy of that exclusive right to the offices of Greenwich Hospital, which the bounty of Princes, and the gratitude of the Public, had bestowed.

It will be found that the design of reducing the court of Commissioners, the board of Directors, and the Council, into an unreserved state of dependence, has been long on foot, and is the leading spirit of the government, or rather *management*, of the Hospital. The motives of every new appointment may be traced to the same source; each is a new link added to the chain, by which the whole is bound to an implicit obedience.

A misunderstanding, in which the Officers of the Hospital were unfortunately involved with the late Lord *Anson*, appears to have given rise to a design which has produced the most pernicious effects.

In the year 1753, a then celebrated Rupture-doctor had prevailed on the Lords of the Admiralty, the Commander in chief of the Army, and the Secretary at War, to give credit to a number of extraordinary, and even miraculous cures, said to be performed on the Pensioners of Greenwich Hospital.

Lord *Anson*, then First Lord of the Admiralty, warmly espoused the Doctor's interest, and proposed to give him an apartment in the Hospital, with an handsome salary, &c. The Officers who knew the fallacy of his assertions, and that the whole was founded in imposture, exclaimed against the appointment. Lord *Anson* however would not be convinced. The Captains, in so good a cause, determined to stand firm: they influenced a party, and effectually opposed his Lordship at a general court at the Admiralty. See the state of ruptured pensioners, Appendix, pag. 30 and 31.

The opinion of the Captains was soon after confirmed, as the Rupture-doctor was afterwards sufficiently exposed in a public court of justice, to authenticate this proof of their discernment, and integrity to the interests of the Hospital, which however was far from being considered as a justification of their late opposition; the spirit they had so often shewn against the enemies of their country was deemed misplaced, when combating the errors of their superiors.

tions; and a question at the Admiralty (on whatever ground) carried against the sense of the First Lord, was deemed equally unprecedented and unpardonable.

The Captains of the Hospital were then, and had been for a number of years in succession, Members of the *Board of Directors*; and the internal government of the Hospital was at that time solely in the hands of the Governor and Council: for it had fully appeared that the apprehensions of the Founders, with respect to them, were groundless. It had been found that *Officers of experience, who had served in the Navy with reputation, as men of honor and courage*, were the natural and faithful Guardians of wounded and disabled Seamen; that they were equally jealous and attentive to preserve the Hospital from encroachment by the admission of persons not qualified, on any pretence whatever, and the Pensioners from imposition, by the frauds of Contractors, Jobbers, or Agents.

But no considerations of this kind were sufficient to oppose a resolution, that the power of the Officers should be considerably lessened; that no Captain of the House, for the future, should have a seat at the Board of Directors; that the internal rule and management of the Hospital should be thrown as much as possible into the hands of the Directors; and that all future appointments to that *Board* should be calculated to prevent the possibility of repeating the mortifying circumstances of out-voting the First Lord of the Admiralty, in any case however laudable.

These resolutions, formed in an evil hour, have been too faithfully adhered to; and from this period must be dated the principal abuses, which have ever since been destroying the establishment.

It is highly probable, that many of the ill consequences which have since arisen, were not at first intended, or even foreseen; but they have been so far from retarding the prosecution of this new mode of governing the Hospital, that it is daily strengthened by additional precautions, and every accession of interest and support, which the too natural desire of uncontrolled dominion could suggest.*

It required, however, many progressive steps, before it arrived at its present height. The attempt to introduce Landmen, in direct opposition to the Charter,

* Sir Edward Hawke, some time before his resignation, saw the inconvenience of not having more of the real Friends of the Seamen at the Board of Directors. He broke through Lord Anson's plan, and introduced Captain Smith, of the Hospital, (since dead) into the direction. The example however has not been followed by his Successor at the Admiralty.

Charter, and to the spirit of the Institution, was too daring to be immediately resolved on, and the execution was reserved for the administration of Lord S——. It was he that first conceived, or at least ventured to put fully in practice, the opinion that the Offices of *Greenwich Hospital* * might, with impunity, be converted into emoluments for an Election.

The truth of the maxim, That Government must be supported, or that public business cannot go on, will, under certain boundaries, be acknowledged by every man of intelligence and candour: yet, it is equally certain, that when admitted in the extreme, it too frequently gives a sanction to measures by which the power of the Crown and the security of the People are essentially weakened. Of this the present is a most glaring instance: In order the better to enable a certain Great Lord to return Members of Parliament for a single Borough, *Greenwich Hospital*, built for the truly political and humane purpose of animating and supporting the spirits of our Seamen (the real Guardians of the Kingdom) is converted into an engine of Corruption, and a den of Borough-jobbers.

The pernicious effects of this are too evident. It is not, for instance, that a Mr. Godby is appointed to a Place, the profits of which are supposed to be 500£. a year, for which some worthy Man is pining in secret; this is too common a case to excite attention. The evil is, that it is known throughout the Navy, that the new Steward of *Greenwich Hospital* is a *Landman*. It is known to all the Secretaries of the Flag Officers, to all the Pursers, &c. &c. that if they should neglect to take *advantage* of their present opportunity, and, by a conscientious discharge of their duty, qualify themselves as claimants for the Offices in *Greenwich Hospital* (in case they should in their old-age want such an assistance) they may hope for an appointment in vain.

A variety of the most pernicious evils have arisen from the appointment of Landmen to Offices in the Hospital.

The forms of the government, being naval, depend much on a peaceable demeanour and acquiescence in the necessary subordination which Seafaring Men, from infancy, have been accustomed to pay. These novices in service are equally inclined to treat their superior Officers with contempt, and to be-
have

* His Lordship has frequently enquired, in a tone of high displeasure, who disputes his power of filling these Offices? To this it is answered, that the Charter not only *disputes*, but absolutely *takes away* the right of appointing Landmen; all such appointments, on any pretence whatever, are positively illegal.

have to the Pensioners, for whose service they are appointed, with the most overbearing insolence and contempt*.

A dispute has long subsisted between what the Clerks, &c. think proper to call the Civil and Military Power of the Hospital—a dispute which arises from the ignorance and presumption of those Clerks, &c. &c. who have unwarrantably and illegally been obtruded on the Hospital, contrary to Charter, and the intention of the Founders.

Should the plea, that Landmen have no right to admission on any pretence whatever, be waved for a moment, there will remain this essential distinction. That Seamen are here supported and maintained as a reward for *past services*: it is for *them* that the Hospital was built, and so nobly endowed: they have a right to every enjoyment and indulgence which can be allowed them, consistent with the established rules of the house; and restraints, with respect to them, should arise only from a laudable desire to extend the benefits of the Hospital to the greatest possible numbers.

But whoever is appointed without this great qualification, is merely a Servant of the Establishment, who has no right but to payment for duties actually performed; every allowance or indulgence beyond such payment is a misapplication and waste of the Revenues of the Hospital.

The Half-pay of the Naval Officers is paid, not to them, but into the Treasury of the Hospital; and they, as well as the Pensioners, in common with every Seaman in a British bottom, of what denomination soever, have contributed their quota for the support of the Fund which they now enjoy.

A variety of considerations might be added: but to press farther a matter so self-evident, is unnecessary. Lord Sandwich has too much experience and understanding, not to know the mischiefs which have naturally arisen from the appointment of Landmen, and that it is totally indefensible. Yet, take it with all its inconveniences, he seems determined to persevere. Had there been any hope that the fullest representation of these evils would have produced redress, this Case would have been first addressed to him, and, probably, to him alone: But the tale has been often told to his Lordship in vain; and it is so far from being in contemplation to give any relief, that every channel of information or expostulation has been carefully choaked up.

It

† It is notorious, that the Secretary beat a poor Pensioner unmercifully with a cane, in the public Square of the Hospital, and this without any provocation.

It being well known that a majority is effectually secured at the Board of Directors, and at the Council; the door is therefore professedly shut at the Admiralty against *all* complaints, which do not come with the sanction of these Boards, which is held to be the only regular mode*.

The absurdity of these regulations would be too palpable, if redress was meant; it is evident that there can be no ground for complaint, or appeal to the Admiralty, but what must arise from the neglect or misconduct of those very persons, whose permission is thus made necessary, before any complaint can be heard against them.

In the midst of these precautions a Charter has been obtained, and a new Book of Instructions formed, coming at such a time, and through such hands, as the Seamen in *Greenwich Hospital* cannot deem friendly. This naturally excites suspicion; for, whatever respectable forms they may have since gone through, they were in fact prepared under the inspection of Lord *Sandwich*, and by the immediate care and abilities of the Secretary to the Directors, without consulting the Council, by whom the late Book of Instructions was formed, respecting the government of the House, and which was approved by the Board of Admiralty.

When this Charter was first produced at the General Court, in order to be received and read, Lord *Sandwich* said he thought the reading unnecessary, as it was a copy of the old Commissions, except some alterations in point of form†.

On a more accurate enquiry, it has been since found, that there is a variety of omissions and additions, all of which have an uniform tendency,

D (which

* The Council, in its present humble state, is not in the least attended to. The Managers of the Hospital even suffer the Naval Officers to have an occasional majority; they are permitted to amuse themselves with Remonstrances, as much as they please, provided they are addressed to the Directors, where they are effectually stopped, and do not in the least interrupt business. The Council were formerly told by the Lords of the Admiralty, " That their own establishment in the Hospital was for the care and protection of the poor Men; and that it was their duty to look daily into every abuse, and to suffer no cause of complaint among the Pensioners." See Admiralty Letters at length, Appendix, p. 29.

+ This assertion was admitted, with little enquiry, except that the Treasurer, observing that the words, " and Receiver General," were not inserted, procured them to be restored by interlineation, in five different places, in the Royal Presence; having reason to suppose, that a new office of Receiver General was intended by the frequent omissions in the Charter. If such alterations can be so easily made for the security of one man, how much more necessary to surrender the whole Charter, where the happiness of thousands is depending!

(which will be hardly deemed accidental) to lessen the number and force of the several checks at first established, and to reduce the whole to an absolute dependence on the Admiralty.

The great outlines doubtless remain. His Majesty again confirms the gift of Greenwich Hospital to disabled Seamen, their Widows and Children. Yet the great strength of many passages is softened, and others are wholly omitted, being all such as expressed, with particular animation and force, an anxious care to prevent any deviation from the sole design of the establishment ; in particular those already mentioned (pag. 4.) words which ought not only to be restored to the Charter, but engraved in marble, and fixed in the front of the Hospital. Passages are also omitted, which were intended to prevent any money, stores, &c. from being diverted, issued, or applied to any other than the charitable purposes therein mentioned, or to defray *necessary* charges ; with several more of the same kind ; and though it may be said, that they are rather exhortatory, than directory clauses, yet they are certainly material, as they explain, from the highest authority, the noble design of the Founders. An extract (as a specimen) is given, pag. 2 and 3, in the Appendix, from the Commission of the first year of his present Majesty (the same as all the former) and also the correspondent passage from the Charter, in which some of the clauses of each, that are not in the other, are distinguished in Italics. Here it will be found that essential words are omitted, and the subject of anxiety changed. In the first Commissions, care was taken to secure the Hospital from any encroachment by introducing *Landmen* on any pretence whatever ; in the Charter, it is to secure and extend the power of the First Lord of the Admiralty, to appoint and discharge whomsoever he pleases.

In all the Commissions, the Court of Commissioners were empowered to recommend to the Board of Admiralty, all Officers to be employed in the Hospital, to be by them appointed *accordingly*. This right of recommendation is omitted in the Charter, and the power of appointment vested solely in the Admiralty.

The Court of Commissioners are directed to meet twice, instead of four times in the year.

The Board of Directors were intitled to Twenty Shillings for each attendance, and impowered to admit the Pensioners : this is altered as already mentioned,

mentioned, and the Admission of Pensioners (which is unnoticed in the Charter) is understood to be solely in the Admiralty. *

The Clause of the Act of the Eighth of *George* the Second, which ordered the accounts of the Hospital to be annually laid before the Parliament, is repealed in the Act confirming the Charter; and many other precautions have been taken, of the true nature and intent of which there can be no doubt.

Deviations in the phraseology, in order to lessen the *too great* strength of expression, occur in every page. The most important passage in the whole has undergone a considerable alteration: “Provided that, *for the future*, all *such persons, so to be recommended and admitted into the said Hospital, as Officers of the House, OR OTHERWISE,* be Seafaring Men, or such who *have lost their limbs, or been otherwise disabled in the Sea service.*” All the words which are printed in Italics are omitted in the Charter, though the words *or otherwise*† are exceedingly material, if the omission gives the least sanction to the late appointments.

D 2

The

* The Seamen are examined at the Admiralty, by the Lords themselves. It cannot therefore be supposed, that there is any thing wrong in the motives for admission.

But amidst the more important avocations of that Board, it can hardly be expected that they will be very minute or circumstantial in their enquiries; and, however accessible or humane the Lords may be, or intend to be, the difficulties and inconveniences under which wounded and disabled Seamen labour, from quarterly examinations, are insurmountable to some, and distressing in the last degree to others. See the Case of *Sampson Gundy*, [Appendix, p. 28] who (with a Certificate in his pocket of more than Twenty-one Years Servitude, as an able Seaman, in the King’s service) died in the middle of the quarter, from poverty, disease, and anguish of mind, in a miserable lodging-room in *Greenwich*, which a Pensioner, an old Mess-mate of his, had hired for his wife—A striking proof of the necessity of frequent examinations! which, though it cannot be expected from the Lords, might be done with convenience and propriety by the Directors, if the Directors themselves were properly appointed.

† This omission of the important words, *or otherwise*, was probably intended to give sanction, not only to the late appointment of Landmen to Offices in the Hospital, but to the great innovation which happened when the Admiralty obtained the appointment and controul of the Marines, by throwing open the doors of *Greenwich* Hospital for their reception; though it must be allowed that their pretensions to the character of Seamen are very doubtful: But as a real Seaman is by no means a popular character at present, at the Admiralty, a very unequal proportion of the favourite Corps, the Marines, are admitted, as Pensioners, into the Hospital.

As this innovation has probably received the sanction of high authority, it is not meant to dispute it here, though it is certainly by no means agreeable to the design of the Foundation, having little or no tendency to encourage young people to betake themselves to the Sea-service. All Seamen pay their quota to *Greenwich* Hospital, even when they serve in the Merchant-service. The Marines do not contribute their mite when they serve on shore, which is supposed to be about one third of the number voted by Parliament: yet all are indiscriminately admitted into the Hospital, whether they pay or not. They have doubtless the common right of Soldiers to Pensions; but why should they

The essential words, with respect to the Officers being Sea-faring Men, however, remain ; and it appears by the establishment, as arranged even in the new Book of Instructions, that the term *Officer*, and *Under Officer*, includes all offices or employments down to the lowest, for which salaries or weekly allowances are paid.

Yet in contradiction to these express words, which have been suffered to remain, and in direct violation of the whole spirit of the Charter, there are now established in the Hospital, several Officers and Under Officers (in places of considerable emolument) who have no pretensions to the character of Seamen, having never been at sea in their lives, and who are so far from being worn out in the service of their King and Country, that they are in general in full possession of youth, health, and strength. These will probably outlive all the present claimants, and destroy the hopes of the Navy many years, during which a long succession of brave and worthy old Seafaring Men, who might otherwise have obtained these places, will probably mingle, with their last sighs, those of disappointed expectation.

There are also Women and their Families established in the Hospital, who are neither the Widows nor Children of Seamen ; whilst the families of many Officers and Men, " slain, drowned, or dead," who have served with distinguished reputation, are in the most distress'd, and hopeless situation.

Amongst those persons who have been thus injuriously obtruded on the Hospital, are the following Officers and Under Officers.

STEWARD.

they be maintained in the Hospital, when there is not room sufficient for wounded and disabled Seamen ? The Case of *Lewis Johnson*, Seaman, justly proves this assertion ; who, after the loss of a thigh in action at *Quebec*, was rejected, or, what is the same thing, not minuted at the Admiralty for admission ; as appears by a Letter from the Secretary of the Admiralty, to an Officer of the House, who was in some degree reprimanded for his humanity, in ordering this poor Man to be victualled, even at his own expence, hoping every day that he would be admitted as a Pensioner in the Hospital. See Appendix, p. 29 ; wherein it appears, he was sent home, by Lord *Howe*, as an Invalid.

The Seamen, who consider the Marines as intruders in the Hospital, make a distinction in favour of themselves, which ought to be attended to. A Seaman has a regular and early education for his profession, and when discharged from his Majesty's service, enters again into that of the Merchants, and never thinks of applying for relief till he is really worn out in the Sea-service. The Marine has not an early education for his profession ; spends great part of his life on shore, as a Soldier ; and, when discharged, is generally maintained by Government till admitted into the Hospital.

This, without attempting to form distinctions on the nature or importance of the services *to this Country*, gives the Seaman, when he does apply, a right to indulgences to which the Marine has not an equal claim ; yet the Seaman (as in the above Case) is rewarded with a small Pension from the Chest at *Chatham*, whilst the Marine finds an asylum in *Greenwich Hospital*.

THE TOWER OF ST EWARD, lately appointed.

This young man is Son to Lord *Sandwich's* Steward; he is also a Freeholder of *Huntingdonshire*, and a Burgess of *Huntingdon*. The Stewardship is a place of great trust and confidence, on the due execution of which the comfort and happiness of the Pensioners materially depend. The manner in which this office is now executed, (which will be seen hereafter) is the more regretted by the poor Men, as they were many years happy in a truly good Steward, (Mr. *Bell*, Secretary to Admiral Sir *John Norris*,) who served the office near forty years with so much integrity, zeal, and abilities, that he was justly esteemed a blessing to the Hospital.

During this long period, there were few or no complaints of the provisions, cloathing, or necessaries of any kind: the skill and industry of Mr. *Bell* were not to be eluded, nor his integrity corrupted; his name is still mentioned by the Pensioners with all the respect due to his memory. To him succeeded Mr. *Ellis*, of whom sufficient notice has been already taken; and on his defection, Mr. *Izard* (a Landman) the Butler of the Hospital, was appointed Steward by Lord *Sandwich*, and also a Member of the Council.

The last Office is by no means a necessary appendage to the Stewardship; and his appointment to it was a wanton insult offered to the Naval Officers of the House, as *Izard* had for several years been accustomed, in the discharge of his duty as Butler, to wait on the Officers, and stand behind their chairs at dinner on festival-days. On receiving his warrant, he took his place (though not without much confusion on his part) at the Council Board.

But *Izard's* interest was doubtless great; for he was a Freeholder of *Huntingdonshire*, and had numerous connections there, which rendered his new office fatal to him; as he kept a kind of open house for his brother Freeholders; and such was his profusion, that some time before the last *General Election*, the Hospital bore a strong resemblance to a large Inn in the interest of Lord *Sandwich*. After eighteen months of riot and confusion, he fell a sacrifice to a life of intemperance, and was immediately succeeded by another Freeholder of *Huntingdon*, the present Steward, Mr. *Godby*, who, notwithstanding his appointment, is incapable of holding legally any place of trust or profit in *Greenwich Hospital*, not being a Seaman, or Seafaring Man.

The SECRETARY* to the Board of DIRECTORS.

This Gentleman, though not a nominal *Member* of the Court of Commissioners or Directors, takes an active and decisive part in the deliberations of both. The employment is in itself of little consequence, being no more than that of a Clerk to those two Boards; and as this gives him no manner of business whatever *within the Hospital*, † it should seem that the domestic peace of the House, and the happiness of the Pensioners, could not be much affected by him.

Mr. *Ibbetson* is however possessed of qualifications much superior to the mere execution of such an office as this; and he has cut out for himself a variety of business, which requires a full exertion of the sort of abilities which he possesses. He has undertaken to be a Leader in the management of the Board

* Mr. *Ibbetson* may, perhaps, be surprised to find himself included in the List of Persons not qualified for Offices in the Hospital, as he was many years Purser of a Line of Battle Ship; that is, he was appointed, and received the emoluments, whilst he was a subordinate Clerk in the Admiralty-Office; but as he never was at Sea, or did any duty, he can hardly be said to be a Seaman, or Seafaring Man, much less to be worn out, or disabled, in his Majesty's Service at Sea.

† The whole duties of his Office, taken from the Book of Instructions, are,

A R T I C L E I.

“ The Secretary, or his Deputy, is to attend at all Meetings of the General Court, and of the Directors, and to read all papers necessary to be laid before them, and to take Minutes of their Proceedings, copies of which he is to deliver to all persons concerned, attested under his hand.

A R T I C L E II.

“ To take care to have drawn out, and kept together in a book, all Contracts made between the Directors and the several Artificers and Tradesmen who serve the Hospital; and to send the said Contracts to such officers of the Hospital as are concerned in seeing the same duly performed; that the same may be entered and kept together in the Books of the respective Offices.”

This, according to his own account (for these instructions, taken from the Old Book, with the deviations above, distinguished in Italics, are drawn up by himself, in the New Book) is the whole of the duties of his Office. Nothing is required of him, but to make Minutes or Memorandums, and to read Letters, &c. for which it is requisite that he writes, or sees that his deputy has written a legible hand, and that he be able to read with an audible voice. No degree of integrity, or other abilities, are necessary, as nothing is intrusted to his care. What he writes is, or should be, dictated to him; and there are, or ought to be, no secrets in the management of the affairs of the Hospital. Even the common Contracts, though the forms are so well known, and though they were all made by his predecessor, are now drawn up by a Sollicitor, who is employed in this, and every other business wherein the least difficulty occurs; which, by the bye, occasions heavy Law-charges. A knowledge of figures is equally unnecessary, the accounts being in the hands of the several Receivers, the Steward, the Clerk of the Cheque, the Auditor, and the Treasurer.

Board of Directors, and to place himself at the head of a Faction distinguished by the title of the *Civil Interest* of the House * ; in which his success has been fully equal to an effrontery which knows no bounds.

Had Mr. *Ibbetson* been nothing more than Secretary to the Directors, this daring attempt must have been deemed impracticable ; but he is also first, or confidential Clerk at the Admiralty ; an office which gives him such an irresistible influence over those who attend the Board of Directors, that he may be truly said to dictate every minute which he writes ; they having places, and material business, which would render a dispute with the first *Clerk of the Admiralty* highly inconvenient.

The appointment of *Clerks* and others, in the higher departments of Government, to certain convenient situations, in subordinate offices, in order to add a few hundreds to their salaries, causes an irregular kind of influence, which is frequently productive of great mischief. Their emoluments and privileges are injuriously increased, and they have opportunity and interest enough to prevent any complaint being heard, or attended to.

This has been notoriously the case in many appeals to the Admiralty, wherein the interests of *Greenwich Hospital*, and those of Mr. *Ibbetson*, were opposed to each other.

It will further appear, from the following regulation, lately made at the Admiralty, what unbounded confidence is placed in this Gentleman.

The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, and Auditor, for the time being, are declared by the Charter to be Members of the Corporation of *Greenwich Hospital*, the *Seal* of which is, by an order of the General Court, deposited in an iron chest, under four different locks, and the keys intrusted to the Governor, Treasurer, Auditor, and to the *Secretary*, in preference to the *Lieutenant Governor* ; which precaution was conceived to be necessary, from the probability that he, the Lieutenant Governor, would resolutely withhold the key, to prevent wanton and unnecessary expences to the Hospital, or the *sale of stock* out of the public funds, which (if the present management be continued) must be disposed of as soon as the aid of Parliament is withheld ;

* The *Civil Interest* of the House (a term in continual use in the Hospital) is really nothing more than the interest of Mr. *Ibbetson*, supported by various manœuvres, which have kept the Hospital in a state of faction and disorder for many years. The Members in this interest are such of the Officers, &c. as pay their court to the *Secretary*, in order to obtain favours from the Board of Directors. They are also united in the common cause of maintaining the footing they have illegally obtained in the Hospital.

the expences of the Hospital greatly exceed its ample revenues. It is presumed that the Seal of the Corporation was intended to be a check upon the Sign Manual of the Secretary; and that his Sign Manual should be likewise a check upon the Seal of the Corporation, which conjointly would legally sell, alien, or otherwise dispose of all the Estates belonging to the Hospital. The Secretary is therefore very improperly appointed to this trust, as he cannot be said to be one of the Corporation of Greenwich Hospital.

The AUDITOR

was at first established as a Fifty-Pound a-year Clerk; but this office has since been increased in point of dignity: the salary has been doubled; and he is entitled by the Charter to a Seat at the Board of Directors; though nothing is required of him but an occasional attendance for a few hours. He is in possession of a suite of elegant apartments, and is now allowed a Clerk, at Fifty Pounds per annum, who has never made his appearance in the Hospital.

The Auditorship has lately been given to *William Eden, Esq;* Secretary to *Lord Suffolk,* who is a man of character, and has on several occasions acted with spirit and integrity: But there are Seafaring Men of character and spirit, who have better claims to apartments in the Hospital, and who are fully qualified to execute the business of this office.

THE TWO CHAPLAINS, lately appointed,

are Freeholders and Burgeses of *Huntingdon:* one of them is Chaplain to *Lord Sandwich,* and has two Livings in commendam; and the other holds a Charter-house Living.

In order to prevent solicitations from the Navy Chaplains, the resignations of the late Incumbents were bargained for under the sanction of the Admiralty, and the new Chaplains succeeded without any vacancy being declared: they ensured their lives on their appointments, at the ages of Twenty-eight and Thirty-two. Had this preferment gone in the Navy, to Chaplains upon the List of Half-pay, two junior ones, not upon that List, must have succeeded them, as a thing of course; so that these young Gentlemen have not only deprived Four proper Claimants of their inherent right, but have likewise destroyed the hopes of all the others, for at least half a century.

Thus the Navy Chaplains, whose age and infirmities render them incapable of longer service at Sea, were effectually prevented from urging any claims, which

which might have opposed the interest of the Huntingdonshire Freeholders, * or prevent the Hospital's being converted into an asylum for beneficed Clergymen, and the emoluments of the Chaplainships added to the incomes of Pluralists, for whom Greenwich Hospital is certainly a very eligible and convenient situation, as they are (under the sanction of the Royal Chapel) exempted from residence and performance of the sacred functions of their respective parishes elsewhere †.

T W O of the Three M A T R O N S.

This is an agreeable situation, which has been frequently solicited for by the Widows of Admirals, Captains, &c. These Offices are now in the possession of a Miss Power, and a Miss Birt, ‡ who, whatever connection they might have had with the Lords of the Admiralty, by whom they were appointed, certainly had no claim, and ought not to have been appointed Matrons of Greenwich Hospital. § There are now the Widows of Twenty-four Officers of different ranks serving under these Matrons, in the mean capacity of common Nurses, or Servants to the Pensioners, which creates heart-burnings and jealousies, where there ought to be regularity, order, and obedience.

E

SUR-

* Some time before these resignations, the Rev. Mr. Ozanne, a man of excellent character, and the first upon the list of Navy Chaplains, frequently petitioned his Lordship for Greenwich Hospital in vain; and continued many years in the humble and distressed situation of a Reader to the Curate of St. Paul's, Covent-Garden; and is now, in extreme old age and poverty, performing the still humbler duties of a Reader to the Alms-houses in Tothill-Fields.

† Since these appointments, 30*£.* a-year each has been added to their salaries, out of the Charity Stock, though they were before on a footing with the Lieutenants of the Hospital. On board of a ship, Chaplains rank only with the Warrant Officers.

About the same time the Chaplainship of the Ordinary at Chatham was given, in the face of the Navy Chaplains, to a Gentleman who had never been at Sea, from his connections with the Corporation of Rochester. This Living, being a very valuable one, used to be called one of the Sea Bishopricks; but this Clergyman voted for Lord Sandwich when he put up for the High Stewardship of Cambridge.

‡ These appointments were not made by the present First Lord.

§ Soon after the Foundation of the Infirmary, and before it was raised above ground, there appeared several candidates for the necessary Offices. Mrs. Graydon, the Widow of a Sea Officer, who was the Son of the brave Admiral Graydon, was early in her application. As there were many hardships and difficulties in her case (she had four Children, one of them blind) she obtained a promise of the Office of Matron; and no doubts were entertained of her success, this appointment having always been given to the Widow of a Sea Officer. The place was, however, given to Miss Power, who received her salary, and other emoluments of the office, for three years before the Infirmary was fit to receive a single man.

Poor Mrs. Graydon was obliged to enter into menial service.

SURVEYOR of the HOSPITAL.

Though established in that Office, no such Officer is wanted, whilst there is a Clerk of the Works, and no new buildings carrying on: the employment is therefore a sinecure in every sense of the word; and there ought to be no sinecures in *Greenwich Hospital*. He never attends, except to take his seat at the Board of Directors, (where he sometimes has the honor to preside) to espouse the estimate, given in by his Clerk, of what is called Necessary Works, amounting to large sums; which is presented almost every board-day, and ordered as a thing of course. He attends also when it is his turn to present a Boy to be maintained out of the Charity stock.

CLERK of the WORKS.

This appointment is not objected to on the ground of qualification, as the office could not be properly executed by a Seaman; nor does it appear to be a matter of consequence, he having an occasional establishment of five shillings a day when *new* works are carrying on; otherwise no such man is wanted, whilst there is an established Surveyor: but as care is taken that new works shall be perpetually carrying on, the office is permanent, and derives new consequence from the importance of the Personage who has been lately appointed, viz. Mr. *Mylne*, * Architect of *Black Fryers Bridge*, who obtained this place from the great interest of Mr. *Paterson* (his Patron in that work) with Lord *Sandwich*; and such is his arrogance on this protection, that he has assumed to himself the authority of the Governor of *Greenwich Hospital*. †

An occasional five shillings a day could not be considered as an object worth Mr. *Mylne's* acceptance: the advantages of the place are therefore so much increased,

* Though there is neither right, nor necessity, that this man or his family should be lodged in the Hospital; yet the Butler's Mate has been turned out of a little apartment, and allowed 12*s.* per annum for house-rent, in order to make Mr. *Mylne's* apartment more complete, which has been altered and fitted up at a considerable expence to the Hospital.

† The Commanding Officer having given leave to the House Carpenter to pass a Bar, leading to the Hospital-Wharf, the Clerk of the Works, who had got possession of the key, positively refused to open it, saying, it was in consequence of an order of the Directors. If such an order existed, he knew that the Directors had no power to make it, as the right of granting indulgences in opening this Bar had, for time immemorial, been entirely in the province of the Governor, or other Commanding Officer. Several Persons of Distinction, particularly Lady *Catharine Pelham*, have since applied to pass this Bar; but, to the great mortification of the Lieutenant Governor, he had it not in his power to oblige her Ladyship, as the Clerk of the Works still keeps possession of the key, in defiance of the Government of the House.

creased, that it seems probable, that the New Works of Greenwich Hospital will be much more profitable than the building of *Black Fryers Bridge*.

However low or trivial some other of the Offices of the Hospital may appear, they have been converted into valuable *fine-cures*, the possessors having interest enough to increase the emoluments, and to procure leave to execute them by deputy.

The GOVERNOR's CLERK,

Who is also, by his office, Clerk of the Council, is a gentleman who was formerly an Officer of Horse (Mr. Paunsford,) and who never attends his duty, though a large suite of apartments have been reserved for him. The Governor, as his relation, may dispense with his private attendance; but he certainly ought not to have permitted him to delegate his employment of Clerk of the Council to a Clerk of the Steward's, by which the deliberations of the Officers are betrayed to the *civil interest*, and their most strenuous endeavours to serve the Pensioners frustrated. Nothing could be more contrary to the Constitution and due Government of the Hospital than this delegation, the Clerk of the Council having been intended as a check upon the Steward's Office, &c.

The MASTER COOK.

This Office is possessed by a Landman, one * Mr. Wartell, late porter to Clement's Inn, who convicted a Printer of publishing a libel on a certain First Lord. For this service he has been preferred before all the Pensioners in the Hospital, and Master Cooks of the Navy.

The PORTER.

This Office is also in the possession of a Landman, who is an old Herald. He is a Poor Knight of Windsor, and a Roman Catholic. His emoluments are rendered more valuable than the appointment of a Lieutenant, by his being allowed to retain a part of the money arising from shewing the Painted Hall and Chapel. Though he lives in the Hospital, he holds himself superior to the low employments of his place, and has never condescended to wear the Gown, or bear the Staff of his Office. In this and other parts of his duty, he is permitted to employ old Pensioners, to whom he pays trifling gratuities.

In the Instructions to the Porter, as originally framed, he is ordered to attend the Council;—in the new book he is directed to attend the Directors, and the Council is become a secondary part of his duty. But a deviation of much more consequence occurs in the second article of his instructions in the new book, in which, by an artful parenthesis, the power of the Governor in closing the gates at the stated times, and in preventing the admission of strangers at improper hours, is totally taken away; and all cattle, horses, carts, or carriages of any kind, belonging to, or coming to any of the Officers or Clerks of the House, are expressly exempted from the general power of the Governor or Commanding Officer.

This exemption from the powers of due Government, is by no means an idle privilege. The Routs of the Secretary, and other Card-parties, Balls, and Assemblies, frequently disturb the Pensioners, and render the Hospital a scene of noise and confusion for the greater part of the night: though it certainly was not intended that the several Officers in the Hospital should pass a life of abstinence or mortification, yet the great lengths to which indulgences of this kind have been lately carried, strongly shew the necessity for the occasional interference of the Government of the House.

The BARBER,

Who has a nominal salary of twelve pounds a year, received till very lately between two and three hundred, * as a fine-cure, and appointed a deputy, who was paid very little more than what he spunged from the Men.

Mr.

* On the 14th of July, 1774, the Lieutenant Governor received a message from the Secretary of the Admiralty, requiring his attendance. The matter was of no less importance than a charge of not letting business go on; on which it was thought proper to speak in a style of reprobation. A complaint made by John Mackness, the Hospital Barber, was the ground of this heavy charge.

In the establishment of the Hospital, a Barber is appointed at 12*£.* per annum; he is also allowed an halfpenny per week from each of the Men, for shaving them; and one penny per week for each of the Boys, for cutting and powdering their hair. This appointment Mr. Stephens had procured for his Valet de Chambre, who lives in the Country, in a style which the appointment of an Hospital Barber appears, at the first view, ill calculated to support. The profits, when stated in figures at length, assume a more important air, and are a striking proof of the comparative value of the Perquisites of Office.

	£.	s.	d.
Salary,	12	0	0
An halfpenny per week, for 2169 Men,	234	19	6
A penny per week, for 140 Boys,	30	6	8
	<hr/>		
	£. 277	6	2

This Gentleman-Barber, since his appointment, has received out of the Treasury of the Hospital, 3,500*£.* clear of all expences or deductions whatsoever, without doing one hour's duty.

Mr. Mackaness the Barber, however, never appeared in the Hospital, or attended any part of his dirty emploment, except that of receiving the emoluments of an Halfpenny per Man, per week, &c. He had indeed appointed a substitute, but, instead of a proper salary, granted his permission to demand an other Halfpenny per week of the Pensioners, with which the Deputy was perfectly satisfied.

Business had thus gone on very smoothly for a confiderable time, when the attention of the Lieutenant Governor was unluckily drawn to this arrangement, which had been so cleverly settled. The Pensioners having complained to him of the imposition, the Barber was sent for from his villa, and, much against his will, made a visit to the Hospital, when he was ordered either to do his own duty, or pay his deputy a sufficient salary to prevent this extortion on the Men, amounting annually to a large sum.

In this state of the matter, the Secretary of the Admiralty thought proper to interfere; and attempted to induce the Lieutenant Governor to desist, as being probably the best method which occurred of settling the dispute: the Lieutenant Givernor however insisted, that the affair should be settled by authority at the Admiralty; in consequence of which, Mr. Mackaness received orders to shave the Men twice a week gratis, or pay his deputy a sufficient salary for doing it. *Mackaness* then wrote the following elegant note to his under-strapper,

GATTY!

I am satisfied to give you 120*l.* per annum for shaving the Pensioners duly twice a week, and powdering and shaving the Officers.

John Mackaness.

Admiralty Office, July 14, 1774.

This note was delivered to the Lieutenant Governor, and he had the honour of carrying it to Mr. Gatty. Since this time the Pensioners have been regularly shaved twice a week gratis, to the great mortification of Master and Man, and probably to a certain great Man's Valet de Chambre, who may expect to succeed to this desirable *sinecure*.

The

The TURNOCK, Mr. DICKY.

This petty Officer, who was bred a Gardener and Footman, and who was never at Sea, has been the occasion of a very warm contest between the Council of the House and the Directors, in which he experienced the great efficacy of the *Civil Interest*, when opposed to the legal powers of the government of the House.

A water-plug having been neglected by the Turncock, a spring-tide forced its way into the kitchens and lower apartments throughout the Hospital.—The Captain of the Week gave the necessary orders for stopping this inundation, to the Turncock, who (having no idea of the necessity of obedience, but to the *Civil Interest*) resented any appearance of command from a Naval Officer. The Captain of the Week complained to the Lieutenant Governor, who, on enquiring into the case, found that *Dickey's* behaviour had been attended with many aggravating circumstances: he was therefore ordered to wait on the Captain, to ask his pardon: this he flatly refused to comply with: three days were given to consider the consequences, when still he persisted in his resolution: he was then summoned (in the usual way) to answer for his conduct at the Council, where he was sentenced to be mulcted Twenty Shillings of his wages, for the benefit of the Charity stock; and to ask pardon of the Captain of the week, in an elevated part of the Dining-Hall, intended for such humiliations. *

Dickey.

* The First Chaplain, who, on all occasions of this kind, stands extremely forward, expressed his surprise, that Mr. *Dickey* (a Servant to the House, and formerly a Footman) should be put upon the footing of a Gangway-man; meaning the Pensioners in the Hospital; some of whom might have been unhappily punished at the Gangway, whilst they were in the Sea-service. Reflections of this kind are, however, very illiberal, especially in a Clergyman.

The following Sunday he preached from the 18th Chapter of St. Matthew, in which, from the Parable of Ten Thousand Talents, he took occasion to compliment Lord Sandwich, as the great and merciful Lord, who had forgiven his Servants, or Vassals in the Hospital, their manifold offences; whilst, on this occasion, one of them had taken his fellow-servant by the throat, delivered him to the Tormentor, cast him into prison, and made him pay the uttermost farthing. Clergymen, especially Chaplains, are too apt to prostitute the Pulpit on any occasion in which they think the interests or passions of their Patrons are concerned; but it was going a great length, to consider a Gentleman, who had served his Country forty years with reputation as a Naval Officer, on a line with a menial Servant of the Hospital. The application of the words of the Text, which were thus maliciously and artfully pointed at the Captain, had no foundation in truth. *Dickey* was not taken by the throat, or any other part of his body; he was not confined in Prison, nor subject to any restraint; and the sentence of the Council, by which he was mulcted Twenty shillings, could hardly be said to make him pay the uttermost farthing—yet even this was remitted.

The

Dickey, instead of complying with this sentence, continued refractory; and at length withdrew himself from the Hospital, to consult some of the Civil department, who lived in *London*. On his return he was met by the Lieutenant Governor, within the works of the Hospital, in presence of the Deputy Treasurer and Dispenser: on being asked by the Lieutenant Governor, why he withdrew himself from his duty without leave, and if he did not intend to make an atonement for his fault that day in the Dining-hall; to this he replied, that, so far from making any concession, he had been advised by his friends to bring an action at law against the Captain.

In consequence of this unprecedented behaviour in a servant of the House, a second Council was summoned to take the case into further consideration. The Civil Interest was then alarmed, and eagerly interfered; the Secretary and his partizans appearing in Council, to protect and uphold this Man; arguing that he was an Under Officer, and not cognizable for his conduct to the Council. In this distracted state of a Naval Establishment, nothing decisive could be resolved on: the matter was however laid before the Governor in *London*, who, after much altercation with the contending parties, and *Dickey's* positively refusing to make any concession, undertook his dismission at the Board of Directors, and having the next Board-day in *London* represented his conduct as highly culpable, and subversive of all rule and order, proposed his dismission from the Hospital, to which there appeared no objection, till the Secretary, in great wrath, pulled a paper out of his pocket, which he called *Dickey's* defence, and immediately read it to the Board: He then proposed a new tryal before the proper tribunal (the Board of Directors): a new tryal was ordered, in opposition to the Governor and government of the Hospital, and the Captain of the Week and *Dickey* summoned to attend, with their respective witnesses, the next meeting of the Board of Directors at *Greenwich*. On the day appointed, the Captain appeared before the Board; but instead of submitting to be examined by them,* he informed them, that

it

The Chaplain was so pleased with his own performance, that he asked the Captain, when coming out of the Chapel, *How he did now?* And, on similar occasions, he has behaved with equal impropriety in the Pulpit; particularly in *May, 1775*, when a certain First Lord and his Lady were to dine with the Parson and his Wife: His Lordship honoured the Chapel with his presence; the Chaplain then prayed for the happiness and welfare of the Right Honourable *John Earl of Sandwich*, as in duty bound, and for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and all the Officers, Civil and Military, of this Royal Foundation. This distinction, and pre-eminence, trumpeted from the Pulpit, in favour of Civil Officers, in a Naval establishment, was founded in ignorance and presumption, and was probably broached in the presence of the First Lord of the Admiralty, in order to silence (under his sanction) all opposition to the Civil Interest in *Greenwich Hospital*.

* This Board consisted of *Cooke* the Chaplain, the Surveyor of the Hospital, the Six-penny Receiver, &c. Is this a Tribunal to enquire into the conduct of a principal Officer of *Greenwich Hospital*, who had served his King and Country with reputation and honour above Forty Years?

It was a matter in which they had no authority, as it related to the government of the House; and that it had already been determined by the proper Officers. To this it was answered, that, if he would not submit to a new tryal, the matter must rest where it was. The Captain then replied, that he hoped the Council would lay the matter before the Board of Admiralty; to which it was answered with a sneer, (keeping him standing,) that it would be referred back to their Board; but it appears that the Lords knew the constitution of the House too well to attempt so glaring an infringement.

This affair, which had so long disturbed the peace and good government of the House, was at length represented to the Secretary of the Admiralty by the Council, (see Appendix, pag. 15 and 16.) to which no answer was received.—The Governor, then in London, attending Parliament, was sent for by Lord Sandwich, who employed him as a mediator: several letters were written to the Commanding Officer on the spot, (see Appendix, page 17.) and after much time spent in investigating this seemingly trifling affair, the Council were obliged to accept of a mutilated and imperfect compliance with their sentence, by his asking pardon, not on the elevated place in the Dining-Hall, agreeable to the sentence, but on the floor only, where his concession could not be heard, or himself seen by the Pensioners; and also to consent that the mulct of Twenty Shillings should be remitted. This being the will and pleasure of the First Lord, (as appears by one of the above mentioned letters) was acquiesced in by the Council, in order to preserve the appearance of some remaining rule and government.

This was understood, on all sides, to be a complete victory on the part of the Civil Interest; and consequently the Officers, Under Officers, Servants and Labourers, of the Civil department, behave with the most careless insolence to the Naval Officers, (See the Minute of the Council, Appendix, pag. 34.) who are reduced to the necessity of taking little or no notice of it, in order to avoid disputes of so degrading a kind.

Besides the Officers already mentioned, the Secretary's Clerk, Steward's Clerks, Clerk of the Cheque's Clerks, Surgeon's Assistants, Cook's Mates, Butler's Mates, Scullery Man, Scullery Man's Mates, Brewer's Assistants, &c. are not Seafaring Men. There is no pretence, of right or necessity, for their continuing in the Hospital; and the appointment of every one of them is a direct breach of the Charter.*

Persons

* It may be said, that Seafaring Men cannot be found to execute these Offices; to which it is answered, that the late and present Treasurer easily found Seafaring Men of character and ability to perform even the more important duties in the Treasurer's Office; and though there are so many principal offices in the Hospital, held by Landmen, yet the present Treasurer's Clerk served the office of Purser in several large ships with integrity, and was besides many years Secretary to the late Admiral Smith, who, from his many amiable qualities, was styled by Seamen, *Tom of Ten Thousand.*

Persons who have been Masters, Masters' Mates, Pilots, Midshipmen; Gunners, Carpenters, Boatswains, and their Mates; Surgeons, Surgeons' Mates, Purasers, Purasers' Stewards, Captains' Clerks, Cooks, &c. are in general fully qualified to execute the above Offices. Many of these, who have served with fidelity and reputation at Sea, are now common Pensioners in the Hospital, and many more are languishing in a state of poverty and distress. To them these Offices would be esteemed a blessing; and the news of a general over-haul in Greenwich Hospital would be received in the Navy with joy and gratitude.

The Hospital, it is too true, can provide but for a small number of those who are in distress, and who have the best claims: but if these Offices were in the possession of Seafaring Men, there would be no ground for complaint on the subject; and the full encouragement would be given to the Navy, which was intended, and which the nature of the institution will admit.

These little Offices and Employments ought to be filled principally with Pensioners selected from the Hospital, and bestowed as rewards for regular and sober behaviour. The only instances (of late years) wherein Pensioners have been appointed, were those of *John Webb*, * and *John Matthews*, to the office of Cook's Mates; the former of whom was recommended by the First Minister, and the latter by the Steward of Greenwich Hospital: they were however, immediately on their appointment, struck off the list of Pensioners, and considered as on an establishment totally distinct. This alteration made the new Office hardly worth their acceptance.

The Pensioners who were married previous to their admission, are not allowed to introduce their Wives into the Hospital, on any pretence whatever; and if any Pensioner or Nurse marry afterwards, they are by the constitution of the Hospital immediately discharged.

But all the above mentioned Officers, Clerks, Deputies, and Servants of the establishment, are allowed to introduce their Wives, Families, and Friends, †

F

many

* This poor fellow is an old Seaman, was many years a drudge, or deputy to a Gentleman's Valet de Chambre, who is still one of the Cook's Mates, and now hires another Pensioner to do his duty in the Cook-room. Seamen who have lost their legs frequently leave the Hospital, and re-enter into his Majesty's ships as Cooks; but they seldom or never can obtain even the office of Cook's Mates in the Hospital, which is much less fatiguing service than similar offices at Sea.

† Amongst many other advantages attending this privilege, they are considered as intitled to the care of the Physician and Surgeon of the House, &c. and the medicines supplied by the Apothecary, at the expence of the Hospital. As there is so much power of mutual accommodation, the families of the Civil Officers are attended with particular care; and the expence of medicines is in some articles very improperly swelled, particularly where a course of Spa waters, asses milk, &c. are

many of whom are lodged in the grandest and most convenient apartments in the Hospital. The Coach-houses, Stables, Gardens, &c. are principally in their possession; and the Hospital is frequently disturbed with disputes concerning their Footmen and other Domestics.

The apartments in the possession of Mr. *Ibbetson*, though sufficiently large and elegant for the Secretary to the Directors, an officer of an Hundred a year, were found to be too much confined for the Country Villa of the *confidential Clerk of the Admiralty*. He therefore projected one of the boldest innovations on the establishment of the House, and the most insolent incroachments on the rights of the Pensioners, which appear on the records of the Hospital.

On the 16th of April, 1771, at five o'clock in the morning, the Pensioners in the *Royal George* and *Victory* Wards * were alarmed by a number of workmen, who, without any previous notice, turned the Men out of their beds, and pulled down eleven cabins. The astonished old Men enquired the reason of this strange proceeding, and were told that the Wards were to be shortened, by order of the Directors, for the accommodation of Mr. *Ibbetson*, to make more room for his Footmen.

The Pensioners appealed in the most tumultuous manner to the Commanding Officer, who pacified them by promising to appeal immediately to the Admiralty, in order to procure the restoration of the Wards.

The complaint was accordingly made, and a General Court of Commissioners and Governors summoned, in which the additions to the apartments of the Secretary were ordered to be pulled down, and the Wards to be restored to the Pensioners: † the Commanding Officer received several letters,

&c. are prescribed for those who have a very doubtful right to become a charge to the Hospital. Ever since the late marriage of the Steward with the Governor's Niece, a drove of asses have been constant attendants on his Family, for near two years. Restorative medicines may in this case be necessary; yet it does not seem reasonable that the Hospital should pay for them: though instituted for the benefit of the hurt and disabled, it was not in services of this kind.

* The *Royal George* is one of the two Wards called, by way of pre-eminence, the Show Wards, being those which, from their extent, grandeur, and other advantages, are always shewn to strangers, in honour to the establishment.

† Some time before this daring attempt, the *Royal Sovereign* Ward, in King William's building, (so named after the Royal Founder,) was converted, at a great expence, into lodgings for the Secretary's Clerk and his family, which is equal in all respects to a Captain's apartment, and remains to this day in his possession, though the misapplication of the Founder's own Ward was represented to the present First Lord of the Admiralty, by the Commanding Officer.

But what are the musty Charters and antiquated orders of deceased, or even living Princes, when opposed to the establishment of Clerks in Greenwich Hospital!

ters, (see Appendix, page 8.) on this occasion, from Admiral *Holborne*, then Governor of the Hospital, and Sir *George Rodney*, the late Governor, expressing their warmest indignation at the conduct of the Directors.

This encroachment may therefore be understood to be completely repelled; and it deserves to be particularly remarked, as the only instance, in any matter of consequence, wherein notice has been taken, and relief obtained, amidst the numerous grievances which have been the subject of complaint for several years.*

The circumstances attending this successful application are stated at large in the Appendix, from page 4 to 8, as a striking instance of the sort of treatment to which the Officers of the House are subject, when they appear at the Admiralty as Complainants in behalf of the Men under their care; treatment to which no Gentlemen could submit, but from obligations of duty.—To be menaced by the Secretary—to be kept many hours with the model of the Hospital, and the evidence, in waiting, without admittance, examination, or answer—and to be obliged to give the anxious Pensioners an assurance of redress at hazard, in order to conceal the mortifying reception he had met with;—are insults which the Commanding Officer of *Greenwich* Hospital had the misfortune to experience, in an application to the General Court of Commissioners and Governors, to know whether it was their pleasure to confirm a resolution of the Board of Directors, to turn out eleven old Seamen, who had been worn out in the service of their Prince and State, † in order to accommodate Mr. *Ibbetson's* three Footmen.

F 2

From

* Notwithstanding the First Lord pretended to disapprove the conduct of the Directors and their Secretary, and ordered two of the three Wards which they had destroyed to be restored to the Pensioners; he did also, in the same breath, promise Mr. *Ibbetson* an additional accommodation, in some other part of the building; and a pretty project, as will hereafter appear, was soon put in execution.

+ Extracted from the Minutes of the Council, April 19, 1771.

" A Letter from *William Covedale*, late of the *Victory* Ward, was read, representing that he is Eighty years of age, and has been Twenty-two years in a Cabin, which is now taken down, in the said Ward; and that he is now moved into another, greatly to his disadvantage, and praying to be re-admitted into his old Ward the first opportunity, being very lame on one side, and his Ward-mates, who were his old companions, giving him every assistance. The Council ordered him to be re-admitted accordingly, the first vacancy. The Boatswain of the Ward being called in, and examined how he came to remove the said Pensioner without Captain *Baillie's* orders, said, that he had remonstrated with the Clerk of the Works' Clerk about it, who said he had particular orders for so doing, and bid him not mind Captain *Baillie's* orders, for that he would bear him harmless."

N. B. The old Man observed, with great dignity, that it was very hard that Eleven Fighting Men should be turned out for One Writing Man.

From this improper treatment of a principal Officer of the House, on a complaint which was admitted to be reasonable, in a cause in which redress was immediately ordered, what must be supposed to have been the style of behaviour in the Leaders and Adherents of the *Civil Interest*, in those numerous instances, wherein the complaints have been quashed, and all redress positively refused! It has been every thing which the imagination can conceive as the effect of the most ungoverned and fearless insolence. (See the last page of the Appendix.)

Though the then Commanding Officer, Capt. *Baillie*, had had many convincing proofs, that his unwelcome interference on this occasion, which prevented business from going on, had been received with great disgust, and that redress, which could not be refused to a public application, had been very unwillingly ordered; yet, when it was done, it appeared to be a very proper matter to take credit from. Some time after the restoration of the Wards, Lord *Sandwich*, accompanied by Lord *North* and other Noblemen, visited the Hospital, when Lord *Sandwich* made great enquiry concerning the Wards he had ordered to be restored. Much pains appeared to be taken, to give Lord *North* an high idea of the management and perfect state of the Hospital; the Review was, however, a very superficial one.*

This visit, notwithstanding, made a flaming figure in the news-papers; and it was doubtless considered, by the public, as a striking proof of the zeal and attention of the First Lord of the Admiralty, to the most minute duties of his extensive and important Office. In the Hospital, from its trifling effects, it appeared quite in a different light; and *Ibbetson* certainly thought he should lose no ground on the occasion, as he has since proceeded in a manner still more irregular and insolent.

On finding that he could not oust the Pensioners in the *Royal George* and *Victory* Wards, he seized the *whole* of the passage leading from them to the principal stairs, of which he was before in possession of a part. This was immediately converted into a grand Gallery, about fourscore feet long (in which there are four large light windows) and is now fitted up with a degree of elegance and magnificence, correspondent with the rest of his apartment. A fire-place was found to be necessary, where none was intended in the original plan of the building: a flue was therefore bored through this arched passage, and cut into the walls of several wards in a zig-zag line, to join the chimney

* When any of the Noble Visitors addressed themselves to Captain *Baillie* to be informed of the circumstances of turning out the old Men, or of any of the regulations of the House, a sneer of disapprobation was given by the First Lord whenever he attempted to reply, or enter into conversation.

in the center of the Royal George Ward; which was effected with great labour and expence, by cutting the said flue into the solid wall, and continuing it a considerable distance, to meet a stack of stone chimneys, which was obliged to be taken down, to admit of this additional flue: the walls are materially weakened by the operation; and more alarming mischiefs are apprehended from a continual stream of smoak and fire, which traverses the walls of several wards; but what may be the effects of an experiment so new, can only be known by the result.

The apprehension of fire is now rendered particularly dreadful, as, in case of an alarm, the ward-doors leading to the principal passages, and thence down the great stairs, are all closed, all barricadoed up, and become the private property of Mr. Ibbetson. No means are left for an escape, but down a pair of narrow winding stairs, which the old Men find it sufficiently difficult to hobble up and down in the day, and at their leisure: * but amidst such a calamity as this, from the numbers and confusion, several of them would probably perish in the attempt; and in the mean time their minds are subject to continual apprehension of this fatal catastrophe.

These passages, † when in their original state, formed an agreeable walk for the Pensioners in wet weather; and the Officers, in the performance of their duty of inspecting the wards, could go from ward to ward throughout this building, called Queen Anne's square. They were a principal means of circulating fresh air, which is essential where such numbers live; they contribute much to cleanliness; they were necessary for symmetry, and gave an air of grandeur to the whole. But all these considerations were trifling in the opinion of the Acting Directors, when put in competition with the private convenience of the Secretary, and the imaginary necessities of his family.

More room however was still wanted, and more he would have. Mr. Ibbetson therefore entered into an agreement with a Lieutenant of the House, for one of his apartments, in lieu of which he undertook to procure from the Directors an order to form two others out of the roof of the building. This bargain has since been executed; two large excavations have been made in the roof; a door of communication cut through the solid mass of stone; the roof raised, and the floor of the new apartment established on a level with the floor of the old, so that the Lieutenant's apartment is now raised, and the floor of the new apartment is now level with the floor of the old.

* Several Pensioners have been rendered lame by falling down these Stairs, and one Man killed upon the spot, as appears by the Records of the Hospital.

† The Passages at the other end of the Royal George Ward, being equally convenient for the Auditor, were soon after applied to his private use. Precedents of this kind are too valuable to be long dormant. No chimney, however, has been introduced here.

raised, and a new fire-place introduced amidst the timbers and rafters. That the roof is stronger than is absolutely necessary, and that it will admit, for the present, of jobbs of this kind, will readily be believed, from the massy and durable air of the whole building; but it is difficult to conceive by what arguments the Surveyor or Directors will justify themselves in giving their sanction for the weakening or removal of timbers, which the Architect judged to be necessary for the proportionate strength of the whole; or why they permitted a jobb of this pernicious and dangerous tendency, in the roof of a building, which was erected at a most enormous expence, and calculated to stand for ages.

A drain from the Kitchen of this apartment is carried into a large Ward, through an open gutter, passing under the beds of three Pensioners, where it was made to join with a rain-water pipe, which conveys the soil of that Kitchen through three capital Wards, the Cumberland, Royal George, and Jennings. In hot weather it causes an intolerable stench, and sometimes overflows, being improperly convey'd: the Men complain that they are frequently obliged on these accounts to sit up great part of the night, and retire to the open air: yet these complaints avail nothing: whatever injury may be done to the roof, whatever danger from fire-places in such situations, or whatever nuisances from kitchen-drains, are not objects of sufficient consequence to obtain the least attention, when opposed to the interest of Mr. *Ibbetson*.*

Mr. *Godby*, the Steward, having judiciously strengthened his interest, by a marriage with the Governor's Niece, more room was adjudged to be necessary for him also: an additional apartment was accordingly fitted up for his Lady. Unluckily a drain for the use of the Men had been placed in an obscure corner, near this apartment, and it now became necessary to remove it: it was accordingly carried quite outside of the works, and placed close to the great gates of the Hospital, where it makes a most disgusting appearance. A sentinel used formerly to be placed for the express purpose of preventing

* The Secretary and first Chaplain, whose own Kitchen-drains were originally conveyed within side of their respective apartments, in substantial leaden pipes, soldered with close joints for the especial purpose of preventing any nuisance, have lately had those pipes removed to the outside of the building. Yet there was not the least consideration for the poor Men, who are forced to stomach the foul putrid air of other people's sinks, conveyed through their Wards, which easily penetrates rain-water pipes, that are not soldered with closer joints, whilst these civil Gentlemen cannot bear even the idea of a stench from themselves.

+ Mr. *Bull*, the good Steward, and Secretary to Admiral Sir *John Norris*, lived near forty years in these apartments, and brought up a numerous family without attempting to enlarge them, though, from the particular respecting his character, any request of his would have been cheerfully complied with.

preventing any person making water there: the original place was conveniently situated for the Old Men; being near the pay-table, and the council-room, where they are frequently obliged to stand for several hours together: many of them are feeble, and troubled with a diabetes; and they, as well as Officers of the House, are often obliged to wet their breeches before they can reach a proper place. This may seem a low, or perhaps a ridiculous subject of complaint; but it is a real and vexatious evil to many of the Old Men, and it would never have happened, had not the ease and welfare of the Pensioners been on every occasion sacrificed to the convenience or caprice of the *Civil Interest*.

The Clerk of the Works, finding it necessary to keep cows for the supply of his nursery, has converted one part of the store-yard of the Hospital into a cow-house, and the other is preparing for a garden; the consequence of which was, that a Tenant to the Hospital was turned out, to convert his premises into another store-yard, at a considerable expence.

Many other instances might be produced; but these are, it is presumed, sufficient to prove, that the *CIVIL INTEREST* has swallowed up the true interest of Greenwich Hospital.

These glaring encroachments are in general the effect of the fatal necessity, which always subsists, of granting every allowance and indulgence to men employed in the execution of evil designs.

These members of the *Civil Interest* of a Naval Institution are improperly and illegally appointed: they are to take care to silence all opposition to the present mode of governing the Hospital; and whilst they perform their duty, they must be allowed to take care of their own interests: they go so far for their employer, that he cannot venture to stop them from going still farther for themselves.

The extensive share of the building, of which these servants of the Hospital have been allowed to possess themselves, was at first in a great measure accidental; but it was not till within these few years, that it arrived at this enormous height, or that many of the present evils arising from it existed.

The original cause is the grand and ornamental style in which the Hospital is built; having been at first intended as a palace for *Charles the Second*; and when converted into an Hospital by *King William*, the design, so far as it re-

lated to the outward and stately appearance, was ordered to be completed. Had it been at first intended for this purpose, a less magnificent, but more convenient form woud doubtless have been adopted.

The building, long before it could be completed, nearly exhausted the funds assignd for its maintenance. Few Pensioners could be received till the *Derwentwater Estate* was granted; prior to which, many of the wards, and several suites of grand apartments, could not properly be filled. In this state little interest was necessary to procure leave to occupy, for the present, those parts of the building which would otherwise have been empty; but in a few years that which was at first an indulgence, was considered as the custom of the Hospital; a custom which has been defended with the utmost care, and intrenched (particularly within these few years) with new outworks.

Clerks, and their Clerks and Deputies, with their Wives, Children, &c. in the lowest situations, are now lodged in elegant apartments, which were intended originally for Princes, and which are fitted up (at the expence of the Hospital, and in proportion to the interest of the Possessor with the Board of Directors) in the most elegant style, and with all the refinements which modern luxury hath invented.

In all the Royal Commissions since the first establishment, and in the Charter lately granted, the care of *completing the building* is mentioned as the principal duty of the Court of Commissioners, and of the Board of Directors. This work has been carrying on, completing and finishing, near a century. It is easy to conceive, that this has been the cause of most enormous expence. The lucrative nature of jobbs is so very tempting, that they pervade all kinds of public business, even where the strongest precautions are taken; but here the door is thrown quite open. Every year of this long period, the design has been on foot; and it will be found, on an accurate enquiry, that frequently, when little was done, the idea of completing the building gave a sanction to charges which would have been too glaring to have been admitted as ordinary repairs.

Is it not time to admit (whatever interest may oppose it) *that the building is finished?* It is already the most magnificent palace in the kingdom; and the new works which have been lately undertaken, show plainly that the active imagination of the Clerk of the Works is almost exhausted. Every opportunity for alteration, or imaginary improvement,* is eagerly seized on. Amongst
several
changes, a substantial brick-wall, which certainly wanted no repair, has been lately taken down, and re-built with stone (in the true style of jobbing): one corner, which was round, has been made square;

several others lately executed, the Gravel Walk fronting the *Thames* has been lengthened; the noble Stone Piers, and the great Iron Gates at each end, (which were originally intended to open a prospect of the Hospital to strangers on their approach) are now destroyed, and blockaded up with Stone Alcoves; and though, in consequence of these expensive alterations, * this

G Walk

square; and the other, which was square, has been made round: the corner which was round, and is square, had been formerly sloped off, for the convenience of the Inhabitants of the Town, in coming or going down the Five-foot Walk, along the *Thames*; but the new form answers the more valuable purpose of enlarging one of the Secretary's gardens.

The Chimneys, which had answered the purpose very well, ever since the Hospital was built, were suddenly found to smoak, and pots were placed on those belonging to several of the Civil Officers. This incommoded some of the Naval Officers, particularly a Captain of the House, who asked one of the Workmen what they had been doing at the Chimneys, as his smoaked intolerably. The Man answered, that his neighbour, the Auditor, had got pots put upon his Chimneys, and that he must get pots in his own defence. The Captain was therefore under the necessity of applying to the Directors, who, in the absence of the Secretary, ventured to oblige him, by ordering pots to be put on his Chimneys. This grant was confirmed by a subsequent order of the Board, the Secretary being still absent; but upon his return, the Clerk of the Works thought proper to oppose it, and got the two former minutes rescinded, in consequence of a Memorial which he presented to the Board, setting forth the dangerous tendency of admitting common Workmen to give advice concerning repairs and alterations, *as they were interested to provide work for themselves*; and promising to consider the cause of the complaint of smoaking Chimneys, and to provide a remedy. This he certainly did not neglect; for he has since raised many of the Chimneys with stone: but this was not sufficient, for at the next General Court he represented that an ornamental Pediment, in the centre of a large Building, which was designed by Mr. Ripley, Architect of great part of the Hospital, was heavy and prejudicial; and that it caused the Chimneys to smoak in that quarter, which, in fact, belonged to his own apartment, though he had just before been employed in raising them with stone; and he obtained an order to remove this Pediment, which had a very grand appearance. It had never, indeed, been enriched with the sculptural ornaments which were part of the design; but these might have been supplied at a trifling expence, compared with those attending the removal of one large pile, building another, and adding a new finish.

This has probably been the most laborious and expensive cure of a smoaky Chimney in the records of Jobbing, and proves that it is sometimes full as dangerous to consult a Clerk of the Works as a common Workman.

* When some of these alterations were finished, the Clerk of the Works, not approving of his own plan, made application for a General Court of Commissioners, who met for the especial purpose. At this Court he obtained an order to alter his work in the manner he proposed. These Walks wanted nothing when he began with them; and, could he have pleased himself with his first alteration, nobody would have objected to it; but when a Clerk of the Works can so easily obtain orders, he is not readily pleased with his own performances, and it is not improbable that this re-alteration may still want altering.

At the same Court he likewise obtained an order to plough up and level the Burying-Ground, to lay it out in lawns and gravel-walks, and to plant it with a great number of trees. He has since been busily employed in tearing up the graves and the bones of the deceased Pensioners with the plough-share; which seems to give great uneasiness to the minds of the Old Men, as they have now lost all the land-marks where their Mess-mates were buried, and where they intended themselves to have rested.

That this will make a good jobb, is evident, and probably cost more money than the fee-simple of the ground; but what other use it can be of, except that the grass may afford better pasture for the Parson's horse, it is not easy to conceive. Fine walks were surely not wanting about Greenwich Hospital; there was already a profusion; and to lessen the Burying-ground, in order

Walk may have assumed a grander appearance from the *Thames*, yet it was sufficiently grand and convenient before: but the real motive is, to lay open and expose the brick building called King Charles's Building, to the *Thames*, from whence it was formerly not seen; which may suggest the necessity of rebuilding it with stone, though the present building is substantial and useful. Should it be urged, that this would increase the superb appearance to the water, it ought on that account not to be done. Elegance has already encroached too much on propriety; and the Pensioners, for whose account this princely pile is said to be appropriated, are already sufficiently tantalized and insulted with the profusion of architectural beauties amidst which they live. Columns, colonnades, architraves, and frizes, ill accord with bull-beef and sour small beer mixed with water.

So long as the Hospital shall continue to be deemed unfinished, so long will the building operate as an annual draw-back on the great design of the institution: it will give employment to the ingenuity and avarice of jobbers, and a pretence for applications to Parliament for the public money, which the great liberality of former grants and bounties has rendered unnecessary.

The expence of the alterations and decorations amounts to several thousands per annum; and the whole, at different times, to a most enormous sum. Even the most absurd whims in particular cases are indulged.

A former Lieutenant Governor thought proper to dislike the lofty style of the architecture. The Directors, to oblige him, ordered false ceilings to be made, which converted his apartments into a set of cabins, at a considerable expence. Another was incurred in restoring the apartments to their original state, which was necessary, as the Lieutenant Governor frequently receives Foreigners, * or Persons of the first distinction, to whom the Hospital is an object of great attention.

Admit

to make new walks, was at least unnecessary. It is also cruel to those poor Pensioners who may be under a necessity of requesting leave to bury their Wives and Children in this ground, not being able to pay the Parish-fees. This has been objected to, on account of the smallness of the ground: the objection is now increased, as the ground is considerably smaller, and will, in course of time, be entirely destroyed by the spreading roots of the elms, which will probably make another good jobb to grub them up. The recent instance of the necessity of cutting down elms, and grubbing up their roots, in other parts of the Hospital, has fully proved the absurdity of planting trees near the walls, especially in the Burying-ground.

This Clerk has also taken down a large shed, erected but a few years ago for the Boys to play in, which is to be rebuilt in another part of the Burying-ground. There may be truly called Jobbs upon Jobbs; and, when finished according to the present plan, will lessen the Revenue of the Hospital nearly 100 £ . per annum.

The present Lieutenant Governor, in order to avoid this expence, applied for apartments in the New Building, lately finished, which was in a more central situation for his office; but the request

Admit the Building to be finished, and the great *ostensible* cause of the numberless deliberations of the Court of Directors will be at an end, and some useless Officers discharged : all that remains, may be transacted without any kind of necessity of meeting every ten days at Greenwich, or at London ; a task which will always prevent Gentlemen in independent situations from undertaking a charge which requires so much attention.

Should the care of finishing the Building be struck out of the list of duties in charge to the Board of Directors, (as it certainly ought to be, if it is already finished) the number and importance of those duties will be greatly reduced : they will then have nothing more than the care of ordering and stating the accounts for the necessary repairs, which cannot be very frequent in a building calculated to stand for ages ; and to contract for provisions and other necessaries, which is generally done by annual agreements ; the quantity, quality, and every circumstance relating to them, being every year nearly the same.

Such Men as ought to be appointed to this Office, would probably think it their duty to attend at every Board, if they were not so frequently held ; and to prevent the unnecessary deliberations of Men armed with power, is perhaps always useful. + If they can do no good, it is too probable they will do harm. Many Boards of Directors have been held, when the chief business before them has been an estimate of what is called Necessary Works, presented by the Surveyor or Clerk of the Works, which has been attended to, and ordered, merely, as it should seem, that a minute may be formed, and some records may remain of the meeting. Works, at least for which no better reason can be assigned, are ordered almost every Board-day, at the sole recommendation of the Clerk of the Works, without further enquiry, though they cost large sums.

As nothing is necessary for the convenience of, or can with propriety be added to the Building, why is it not finished ?

The

request was not complied with. This building, which cost many thousand pounds, is, however, occupied by the Steward's Clerk ; an apartment kept empty for the Governor's Clerk, and a person acting as Clerk of the Works' Clerk ; and a Store-room for the Steward, merely because it is contiguous to his Clerk's apartment, where it ought not to be, on account of the too easy communication with all kinds of stores.

+ As for instance : On one Board-day an imprest of 500l. is petitioned for by a Picture-Cleaner, and refused ; on the next Board-day it is granted : at another meeting it is proposed by the Treasurer to abolish the custom of impresting money in future to Contractors and Tradesmen ; which is ordered to be abolished. The next Board-day, the 27th of December, 1777, the word *abolished*, being an harsh word, was ordered to be altered to *restrained* : so that the acting Directors may oblige their Friends and Customers, as usual.

The only pretence on which the idea of new works can be longer kept up, must be, that room is wanted for the Pensioners, or for the proper and necessary Officers; and if this be the case, a remedy much less troublesome and expensive than new Buildings is obvious, viz. Turn out all those who have no right to reside in Greenwich Hospital, and there will be room enough.

The establishment of the Boys in the Hospital, is recommended under so many specious pretences, that it seems invidious to object to it. Money arising from savings is collected into a *Charity Stock*, and applied to the maintenance of *Poor Boys*, who are afterwards fitted out to the *Sea Service*. These are terms which create a strong prejudice in favor of an establishment which would be highly laudable, if these savings were properly reserved: but, as charity is said to cover a multitude of sins, it will be found in this, as in many other cases, that the *pretence* of charity covers a multitude of iniquities.

This stock is no part of the original establishment of the Hospital, and it is said to be the effect of the care and attention of the Directors. On this they plume themselves greatly, and contend that they have the sole right to the management and controul of it.

The rise and progress of this Fund was however rather the effect of accident, than of the care of the Directors; and the large sum to which it is now swelled, is an entire perversion of the laudable design from which it originated.

"The diet of the Pensioners (who are 2,169 in number) is settled agreeable to the following table; and the Nurses, consisting of 138, are victualled in the same manner."

Days.	Bread Loaves, of 16 oz.	Beer Quarts.	Beef lb.	Mutton lb.	Butter lb.	Cheese lb.	Pease Pints.
Sunday	- - -	I	2		I		$\frac{1}{4}$
Monday	- - -	I	2	I			$\frac{1}{4}$
Tuesday	- - -	I	2		I		$\frac{1}{4}$
Wednesday	- - -	I	2		$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Thursday	- - -	I	2	I			$\frac{1}{4}$
Friday	- - -	I	2		$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Saturday	- - -	I	2	I			$\frac{1}{4}$
Total per Week	7	14	3	2	$\frac{1}{4}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$	I

" Broth is made of the meat on the meat-days, and pottage of the pease on the other; oatmeal, salt, and herbs, being allowed for the purpose; and on the five festival-days they have double allowance, and two quarts of ale, but neither small beer, or cheese."

This is the same invariable bill of fare throughout the year; which is by no means the subject of complaint, being conformable to the known rules of the Hospital, settled at the first establishment, when nothing restrained the indulgences granted to the Pensioners, but an honest wish to extend the benefits of the Hospital to as many objects as possible.

The allowance with respect to quantity is fully sufficient: yet life passes in a chearless round: the table is spread but once a day, and all the seasons the same: there are no vegetables for men whose constitutions are broken by the scurvy; no roast beef, or pudding, or any of the frugal luxuries of the garden, which vary the diet of the poorest people.

It appears that, when the case of those Pensioners, who, from age or infirmities, could not eat the Hospital allowance, was taken into consideration, it was found to be inconvenient to admit of any variation in the general rules of diet: but, in order to accommodate particular cases, an allowance in lieu of provisions was ordered to be paid to the full value in money, which was then found to be six-pence per diem, when provisions were contracted for at much lower prices than at present. This indulgence was likewise extended in favourable cases to Men who had Wives and Children, they being in general very pitiable objects.*

About three hundred and fifty persons now receive this allowance in money; amongst whom are several Clerks, Deputies and Servants, who are not Seamen, and such others as can procure interest enough with the Board of Directors (for this business is entirely in their hands) to get upon a list known in the Hospital by the term *Money-list*. There are however many Pensioners and Nurses on this list, who have been recommended by the Physician and Surgeon, and are proper objects, being in the situation which this benevolent deviation from the strict rules of the Hospital was intended to relieve†.

Soon

* There are many instances of a Wife and four or five Children depending on a Pensioner, and sharing with him the Hospital allowance; and they have little chance of employment, or other relief. During the severe weather, in the winter 1775-6, subscriptions were raised by the inhabitants of Greenwich, for purchasing coals, &c. for poor families. The Wives of Pensioners were, on account of their numbers, and not being reckoned Parishioners, excluded from any share of this subscription, though their poignant distress seemed to demand it the most.

† This recommendation of the Physician has been lately made requisite, not so much with a view to the good effects it has produced, as to prevent applications: for the Charity Stock receives

Soon after this regulation was formed, it was found that the desire of variety, or a habit of drinking (to which within these few years the badness of the provisions has greatly contributed) induced numbers to apply for money, rather than the house allowance: and it being likewise found, that some among the number sold their provisions privately, it was determined, about the year 1731, to take the advantage of this circumstance, by ordering the Butler to buy a certain proportion of every Man's provision. Two other lists were then formed, called the *Butler's list*, and the *Chalk-off list*; which latter is only for each man's pound of beef, or mutton, twice a-week, and for all their cheese; and the *Butler's list*, for all their provisions every day, except beer.

This is bought in proportion to the different contracts, deducting one fifth part of the original price from the poor Pensioners. The profits thus arising are the basis of the new fund, which is called the Charity Stock.

These profits were at first inconsiderable; but, as the increase and application of this Fund have of late years been principal objects of the internal management, every measure is pursued with so much care and dexterity, that the whole profits of these two lists amount to near Eighteen Hundred Pounds per annum.

Whoever applies, is admitted, without hesitation, upon the *Butler's list*, which generally consists of 460 persons; and all the rest of the Pensioners are put on the *Chalk-off list*, twice in every six days, (being about four hundred daily) whether they chuse it or not: but, in order to induce them to submit to this regulation, they are allowed to partake of the broth; that is, a double proportion of water is used in boiling the meat for about eight hundred men, and broth (as it is called*) is served to near twice the number, though particular care was taken in the establishment of the Hospital, that every man should receive the full portion of broth arising from his own meat, as broth is to many of them the principal support: but notwithstanding this original rule of the House, it has been the custom to sell fifty gallons of broth daily, being the allowance of three hundred and twenty men, to fatten hogs,

receives no benefit from the *Money-list*; which naturally induces those who are rejected, to put themselves on the *Butler's-list*, by which the Charity Stock is so much benefited, as will be seen hereafter.

* The Duke de Nivernois, when Ambassador here, visited the Hospital, and was particularly attentive to the internal economy. On seeing so many Men dining on Broth alone, he observed, with a sarcastic smile, that he thought *soup-maigr* had not been the diet of England.

hogs, besides what has been carried off in smaller quantities.† To the men who have families, the effects of reducing their miserable stipend by these depredations, is too shocking to be dwelt on. (See Appendix, pag. 11. and 12.)

Many of the Pensioners who have not this incumbrance, make a bad use of the money they receive. The Hospital is frequently a scene of drunkenness, riot and disorder, which all the efforts of the Officers are ineffectual to prevent: the *yellow coat*, the badge of disgrace, used too frequently, is disregarded; and the Officers cannot wish to inflict heavy punishments on the Men, for faults which do not originate with them.

The Directors have thought proper to take notice of this drunkenness and irregularity, and to enquire of the Council the cause. Though this enquiry ought to have come through the medium of the Admiralty, or General Court, the Council readily answered, and, pointing out the Chalk-off list as the principal cause, reprobated it in the strongest terms, and desired that it might be totally abolished. (See Appendix, pag. 22.)

No answer was given, or other notice taken of this report from a full Council of the Officers of the House. Drunkenness, riot, and disorder, continue without farther observation: the dangerous enquiry is dropped by the Directors, for the Chalk-off list produces the greatest part of the Charity Stock. *

-Why all this anxiety is shewn for the increase and preservation of this Fund, can only be conjectured, as the management of it is amongst the principal *Arcana* of the Civil Government.

That many of the Boys are objects of Charity, is undoubtedly true; and that such of them as are the Sons of Pensioners, or of Seamen slain, drowned, or dead, are objects of this Charity, is equally certain; and probably one half of them would be found to be objects duly qualified, on a proper inspection. As such.

† Though it should seem that the Men are already sufficiently injured in this point, several of the Civil Officers send to the Cook, when they think proper, vessels containing at least four quarts (the allowance of eight men) to be filled with broth, for the use of their families. Amongst the rest, a Labourer of the Works, who performs for Mr. Mylne, Clerk of the Works, the office of Footman, frequently appeared, till prevented by a Captain of the House. The attempts to put a stop to this custom have caused much clamour and confusion, as it is claimed as a Perquisite of Office, and has been frequently agitated in Council by the Steward and first Chaplain, in order to obtain the sanction of the Government of the House for this scandalous privilege.

* The Pensioners are not permitted to sell their Provisions but to the Butler, who gives them from Five-pence to Five-pence Threepence for Two Pounds of Meat; which, when delivered agreeable to the terms of the contract, is such as could not be bought in Greenwich Market under Ten-pence or a Shilling.

Soon after this regulation was formed, it was found that the desire of variety, or a habit of drinking (to which within these few years the badness of the provisions has greatly contributed) induced numbers to apply for money, rather than the house allowance: and it being likewise found, that some among the number sold their provisions privately, it was determined, about the year 1731, to take the advantage of this circumstance, by ordering the Butler to buy a certain proportion of every Man's provision. Two other lists were then formed, called the *Butler's list*, and the *Chalk-off list*; which latter is only for each man's pound of beef, or mutton, twice a-week, and for all their cheese; and the *Butler's list*, for all their provisions every day, except beer.

This is bought in proportion to the different contracts, deducting one fifth part of the original price from the poor Pensioners. The profits thus arising are the basis of the new fund, which is called the *Charity Stock*.

These profits were at first inconsiderable; but, as the increase and application of this Fund have of late years been principal objects of the internal management, every measure is pursued with so much care and dexterity, that the whole profits of these two lists amount to near Eighteen Hundred Pounds per annum.

Whoever applies, is admitted, without hesitation, upon the *Butler's list*, which generally consists of 460 persons; and all the rest of the Pensioners are put on the *Chalk-off list*, twice in every six days, (being about four hundred daily) whether they chuse it or not: but, in order to induce them to submit to this regulation, they are allowed to partake of the broth; that is, a double proportion of water is used in boiling the meat for about eight hundred men, and broth (as it is called*) is served to near twice the number, though particular care was taken in the establishment of the Hospital, that every man should receive the full portion of broth arising from his own meat, as broth is to many of them the principal support: but notwithstanding this original rule of the House, it has been the custom to sell fifty gallons of broth daily, being the allowance of three hundred and twenty men, to fatten hogs,

receives no benefit from the *Money-list*; which naturally induces those who are rejected, to put themselves on the *Butler's list*, by which the *Charity Stock* is so much benefited, as will be seen hereafter.

* The Duke de Nivernois, when Ambassador here, visited the Hospital, and was particularly attentive to the internal economy. On seeing so many Men dining on Broth alone, he observed, with a sarcastic smile, that he thought you might as well eat the dirt of England.

hogs, besides what has been carried off in smaller quantities. † To the men who have families, the effects of reducing their miserable stipend by these depredations, is too shocking to be dwelt on. (See Appendix, pag. 11. and 12.)

Many of the Pensioners who have not this incumbrance, make a bad use of the money they receive. The Hospital is frequently a scene of drunkenness, riot and disorder, which all the efforts of the Officers are ineffectual to prevent: the *yellow coat*, the badge of disgrace, used too frequently, is disregarded; and the Officers cannot wish to inflict heavy punishments on the Men, for faults which do not originate with them.

The Directors have thought proper to take notice of this drunkenness and irregularity, and to enquire of the Council the cause. Though this enquiry ought to have come through the medium of the Admiralty, or General Court, the Council readily answered, and, pointing out the Chalk-off list as the principal cause, reprobated it in the strongest terms, and desired that it might be totally abolished. (See Appendix, pag. 22.)

No answer was given, or other notice taken of this report from a full Council of the Officers of the House. Drunkenness, riot, and disorder, continue without farther observation: the dangerous enquiry is dropped by the Directors, for the Chalk-off list produces the greatest part of the Charity Stock. *

-Why all this anxiety is shewn for the increase and preservation of this Fund, can only be conjectured, as the management of it is amongst the principal *Arcana* of the Civil Government.

That many of the Boys are objects of Charity, is undoubtedly true; and that such of them as are the Sons of Pensioners, or of Seamen slain, drowned, or dead, are objects of this Charity, is equally certain; and probably one half of them would be found to be objects duly qualified, on a proper inspection. As such.

† Though it should seem that the Men are already sufficiently injured in this point, several of the Civil Officers send to the Cook, when they think proper, vessels containing at least four quarts (the allowance of eight men) to be filled with broth, for the use of their families. Amongst the rest, a Labourer of the Works, who performs for Mr. Mylne, Clerk of the Works, the office of Footman, frequently appeared, till prevented by a Captain of the House. The attempts to put a stop to this custom have caused much clamour and confusion, as it is claimed as a Perquisite of Office, and has been frequently agitated in Council by the Steward and first Chaplain, in order to obtain the sanction of the Government of the House for this scandalous privilege.

* The Pensioners are not permitted to sell their Provisions but to the Butler, who gives them from Five-pence to Five-pence Three-farthings for Two Pounds of Meat; which, when delivered agreeable to the terms of the contract, is such as could not be bought in Greenwich Market under Ten-pence or a Shilling.

such they ought to be maintained out of the general Fund of the Hospital, which is amply sufficient, without any pretence of necessity for forcing the poor old Pensioners (the first objects of the establishment) to sell their provisions at an under price, to maintain the Boys out of their frugal pittance.

One hundred and forty Boys are maintained by this Fund, who are presented by the Directors in turn: and, as they are in the Hospital only three years, this turn comes round frequently. To gain admission for a Boy, is however a matter of considerable difficulty; and there are seldom twenty who are the Sons of Pensioners, or more than half a dozen of the Children of the Nurses; though, as the Charity Stock is supported by them, it should seem that their Children had certainly the best right to it. How the principal number of Boys are made up, may be conjectured from a few instances: a Clerk of a Royal Yacht, who is a publican of Greenwich, and also a Clerk to the Clerk of the Cheque, has had four Children in the Hospital: there are also the Children of Masters of Colliers and Coasting Vessels, &c. who are not objects of charity, at least of this Charity; especially whilst the Sons of disabled Pensioners are perishing in the streets. (See Appendix, pag. 33.)

Whatever number of Boys it may be thought proper to establish in the Hospital, they should be better fed than at present; a growing Boy eats heartily, and requires as much sustenance as an old Man: but the allowance is now very different; instead of five pounds, the poor Boys have but one pound and an half of meat in the week; and the other articles by no means make up the deficiency, as appears by the following table.

Days.	Bread. lb. oz.	Beer. Quarts.	Beef.	Mutton.	Butter.	Cheese.	Pease Pottage.	Milk Pottage.	Wat: Gruel, with Sugar.
Sunday	- - - 0	14	1		$\frac{1}{2}$ pound		2 oz.		
Monday	- - - 0	14	1			1 oz.	2 oz.	1 pint	
Tuesday	- - - 0	14	1		$\frac{1}{2}$ pound		2 oz.		
Wednesday	- - - 0	14	1			1 oz.	2 oz.	1 pint	
Thursday	- - - 0	14	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ pound			2 oz.		
Friday	- - - 0	14	1			1 oz.	2 oz.	1 pint	
Saturday	- - - 0	14	1			1 oz.	2 oz.		1 pint
Total per Week	6	2	7	$\frac{1}{2}$ pound	1 pound	4 oz.	14 oz.	1 pint	2 pints

This scanty allowance is hardly sufficient to sustain nature. The Children make heavy complaints, and are continually running away from the Hospital. On these accounts they have been most inhumanely punished by their Guardian, in a manner for which he ought himself to be subject to the cognizance of the laws.* (See Appendix, pag. 20. and 21.)

The Boys' Ward, which is one of the largest in the Hospital, is generally kept in the most filthy and offensive state, the stench being so strong, as to have frequently produced the effect of an emetic on strangers, whose curiosity led them to view it. (See Appendix, pag. 21. and 22.)

These well-known facts fully prove, that a charitable or humane spirit is by no means the cause of the zeal with which the Charity-stock is raised and supported.

The whole amount of this Fund appears, by the accounts, (see Appendix, pag. 31.) to be near Three Thousand Pounds per annum, out of which the School-master is paid 25*l.* the Guardian and his Assistants, who are Pensioners, 48*l.* five Nurses, 7*l.* these are allowed the provisions of the House. *The two Chaplains* are allowed 6*l.* *the Surgeon*, 3*l.* *Secretary*, 2*l.* *Steward*. 2*l.* *Clerk of the Cheque*, 2*l.* *Dispenser*, 2*l.* *Organist*, 2*l.* *Steward's first Clerk*, 1*l.* and the provisions of a Pensioner; *Clerk of the Cheque's Clerk*, 1*l.* and provisions; *Surgeon's two Assistants*, 2*l.* *Dispenser's Assistant*, 1*l.* *Chapel Clerk and Sexton*, 5*l.* *Butler*, near 15*l.* † amounting in the whole to 769*l.* per annum.

H

These

* The former Guardian, who was an old Seaman, and Captain of a Ship's Forecastle with a late Governor, was attentive to his duty, and kind to the Boys; but having permitted them to huzza before a Captain's windows, when the Pensioners were reinstated in their births, was turned out of his employment by the Directors, and the present inhuman tyrant appointed in his room. He has since been supported in his office, and all complaints suppressed, by the Civil Interest.

+ This person had interest enough to get himself recommended to Lord Sandwich, by a Noble Duke, in order to be allowed the Table-money of an Officer; but it appearing to his Lordship rather too bare-faced, to put the Organist upon that footing, without the least pretext, he immediately sent for the confidential Director, who is his Chaplain, and an excellent hand for a bye-jobb, to find out some other mode, more feasible, to oblige his Grace; and he happily recollecting that the Pipes of the Charity Boys were so much out of accord, that they disturbed the Congregation (notwithstanding a person is paid by the Establishment to teach them Psalmody) and that it was absolutely necessary, for the sake of decorum at Divine Service, to employ the person so recommended as principal Singing Master, to bring them to Unison, it was therefore ordered by the General Court, to add 20*l.* per annum (which is the value of the Table) to the salary of the Organist, making in all above three score: and as there is still a surplus remaining in the Charity Fund, it is probable, if such another powerful recommendation should interfere, a Third Singing Master will be added, to make a Trio in Vocal Music complete, instead of taking in more Sons of disabled Seamen. By this mode of singing, the Old Men (many of whom take great delight in singing Psalms, which they consider as the noblest part of the worship) are in some measure deprived of that enjoyment, being now allowed to sing only one Psalm, and forbid to join in the Hymns set to music for the Boys.

† Being One Penny in the Shilling upon the profits of the Men's Provisions, for his trouble in buying them.

These stipends; or *douceurs*, of the Officers of the *Civil Interest* (marked in Italics) which have been conferred by the Directors within these few years, though they are not a compensation adequate to the zeal with which they act, ought to be sufficient to exclude them from seats at the Council, whereby they are invested with the power of mulcting and checking the Men, professedly for the benefit of the Charity Stock, but eventually for the benefit of themselves, as their respective gratifications depend on surplusses which it is made their interest in Council to create.

By an original rule of the House before the establishment of this Charity-Stock, the Men are mustered every day; and those who are absent, are checked out of their provisions, &c. This was formerly considered merely as a necessary regulation for the due government of the House; and as the peace and happiness of the Pensioners was then the sole object of the government, the money arising from these useful severities of discipline was distributed, by the Governor and Council, amongst the distressed Wives and Children of the Pensioners. Attendance at the muster was then occasionally dispensed with on reasonable excuses, and short absences were permitted to Men whose behaviour could be depended on. These checks are now considered as a matter of profit, of which the Charity-Stock receives the benefit, and they are exacted with a degree of sanctimonious rigour, which few circumstances can excuse or soften. * The effects of this inflexible attention are, that, besides the large sums which arise from the purchase of the Men's provisions, about Two Hundred Pounds annually is produced from these checks for not answering to their names, about Fifty Pounds for those absent on leave, and Forty Pounds for mulcts. During the months of *September, October, November, and December, 1777*, there were several store-ships in the service of Government, fitting out at *Deptford* and *Woolwich*, to carry stores to *America*; and there being a great want of hands to load and equip them, the Lords of the Admiralty ordered that such of the Pensioners, as were able and willing, might be sent to assist on this emergency. The Men, well knowing they were to be checked out of their Provisions and Tobacco-money, agreeable to the letter of the law of the Hospital, refused to serve; and measures were talked of in very high terms; expulsion was threatened in the public Dining-halls, and proposals made to the Admiralty to compel them to enter into this service. The Lords however, by their letter of the 30th of *September, 1777*, to the Commanding Officer, expressed their disapprobation of compulsory measures. Some time being thus

spent,

* When a poor Pensioner from the Chest at *Chatham* is admitted into *Greenwich Hospital*, his Pension from the Chest ceases, as a thing of course; and when he goes to *Chatham*, though upon leave of absence for four days only, to receive what may be due to him on that account, he is immediately checked out of his Provisions and Weekly Money (commonly called Tobacco-money); the consequence of which is, that the greater part of his Pension-money from the Chest is generally devoured by Jobbers or Agents before he receives it, merely for want of that poor pittance out of which he is checked, and which would otherways have defrayed his expences. These are acts of inhumanity disgraceful to the Government of the Hospital.

spent; and little progress made in the equipment of the store-ships, a Commissioner of the Navy applied, by his letter of the 12th of November, to the Lieutenant Governor, who was just returned from a short leave of absence for the recovery of his health, "to know what encouragement to the Pensioners would in his opinion enable him to furnish the number of Men wanted for Deptford and Woolwich yards." He was answered, "Don't check the Men, and there will be Men enough." Accordingly the Commissioner procured an order from the Admiralty, to dispense with their mustering during the present exigency; and as soon as it was made known, Two Hundred Volunteers immediately turned out, and embarked on that service; and it is probable many more would have offered, had the severity of the check abated before the cold weather set in.

This appearance of a drawback upon the Charity-Stock alarmed the Secretary, and the rest of the *Civil Interest*. A letter was therefore immediately written by the Steward to the Board of Directors, acquainting them that the late order for not checking the Men, was contrary to the first article of his instructions. The Directors, or rather the Secretary, ordered a minute to be entered, to desire the General Court would empower them, the Directors, to grant similar indulgences in future; and on the 22d of December, 1777, they accordingly obtained that authority from the General Court.*

This manœuvre was artfully contrived to deprive the Council of the House of every pretence of granting any favours of this kind to the Pensioners in future, lest the credit of the Charity Stock, or rather Sinking Fund, should be endangered.

But notwithstanding this late indulgence from the Admiralty, it has given the Pensioners no hope of relief or relaxation from the severity of the check, when absent on their private occasions, which are of equal consequence to them and their poor families; however, there are about four hundred and sixty persons on the Butler's list, whose attendance at muster is frequently dispensed with by the Clerks, in order to keep up and encourage that list, by which the Steward, as well as the Charity Stock, is so much benefited †.

H 2

More

* This is doubtless a great infringement on the Government of the House, as it should seem the Governor and Council (and not the Board of Directors) ought to be authorized to take the Pensioners off Muster in all reasonable cases whatever; the former living upon the spot, and being the best judges, and knowing the characters of Men who are, or are not, in a situation to attend the daily musters, as well as those who are able and willing to serve in the King's Ships on emergencies.

† By this management the Steward sometimes retains near a Thousand Pounds of the Charity Stock in his hands at a time, instead of placing it at interest in the public funds, for the benefit of the poor Boys.

More Men being still wanted for the yards at *Deptford* and *Woolwich*, the Butler's list was ordered to be strictly mustered, which caused above Fifty Men more to enter upon that service, as they could not then so conveniently work about the town for themselves; which fully proves the dexterity of the Clerks, in checking some, and excusing others, just as it suits this sinister purpose, which certainly appears to them to outweigh every other consideration, even when put in competition with the exigencies of the State.

The idea under which this Charity-stock was established, and the checks, mulcts and profits on the provisions appropriated to its support, certainly wore a very specious appearance on paper: and probably, when it was first established, it was generally supposed to be a proper and useful regulation. In those days the poor Boys who had the first claims of admission, were "the Sons of disabled Seamen," maintained in the Hospital, or whose fathers were slain, drowned, or dead, in the Sea service; and no others on any pretence whatever: but by the new Book published with the Charter, the Sons of disabled Seamen in the Hospital are not the first objects of this Charity, though it is supported by squeezings out of their own frugal allowance. On the contrary, the claims of admission are now so very vague and general, that the sons of any person or persons that have been employed on board a ship, even in the river, may find an asylum at *Greenwich Hospital*, provided they are well recommended.

Experience has now fully shewn the pernicious abuses to which this Charity-stock is liable, and that it has established an interest in the Hospital, hostile to that of the Pensioners, and which has, under the most specious pretences, been the means of depriving them, in the most injurious and oppressive manner, of provisions, &c. to the value of near Two Thousand Five Hundred Pounds per annum, to which they were intitled by the establishment.

Whenever the Naval Officers attempt to interfere, in order to prevent the numerous abuses in raising and in expending this Charity Stock, which are disgraceful to the Hospital, and to humanity, they are told, that they have nothing to do with it; and that the Boys are no part of the establishment which is under their care. * It seems however to be high time that an effectual

* It appears, however, by the old Book of Instructions, that the care and controul of the establishment of the poor Boys was particularly intended to be intrusted to the Governor and Council, as it is therein expressly stated, "That the designation of the Nurses of the Boys (which is 6*£.* per annum more than the other Nurses) shall be in the Governor and Council." — The Secretary has, by the New Book, taken away from the Council this appointment, and vested it solely in the Governor; in order that the Council may relinquish every remaining shadow of

fectual enquiry should be made, by Persons whose powers will not be disputed, into the whole management of this fund, which has introduced a Government within a Government, and which has been the cause of confusion and disorder for many years, and fully proves, that under the total perversion the Government of the Hospital has undergone, the greatest blessings may become curses.

Having thus endeavoured to point out the several *original* causes of complaint, whether arising from defects in the government, or the too great personal influence of those concerned in the management of the Hospital; it is necessary to proceed to state those facts, which directly prove the general charges of Insufficiency and Corruption: facts in themselves so improbable, that nothing but a previous idea of the entire subversion of the original establishment, supported by the strongest evidence, can induce a belief: but let it here be remembered, that this Case is written from an earnest desire to provoke a full enquiry into the truth of the transactions stated, by persons armed with power to redress every grievance. Whoever may be here unjustly censured, will be justified by the enquiry; and they will not want an object on whom to wreak their vengeance. Should it appear, that there is nothing in these narratives, but what may be proved with aggravating circumstances, it is presumed they will fully evince the necessity of a thorough examination, and reform of the whole establishment.

The most notorious of these facts are the infamous frauds of Contracting Butchers, and of their Abettors in the Hospital, which have already been alluded to. From the time of the establishment of the Hospital, till within these few years, the necessaries supplied to the Pensioners had been remarkably good: the great care of the Directors in forming the contracts, aided by the integrity and unwearied attention of Mr. Bell, (a former Steward) in receiving the several articles, defeated every attempt of imposition or corruption; nor was there, for many years, an instance of a general complaint in any article of provisions or clothes.

The case is now greatly altered; and, though almost every necessary has been for several years growing worse, it was not till the appointment of the two last and present Steward, that the grievances arrived at a height which makes any longer acquiescence under fraud and imposition impossible.

The
of interference with that Establishment: so that these poor friendless Boys are now, by a tyrannic favourite system, deprived, in all cases whatsoever, of the care and protection of the Government of the House in which they live. (See a Letter from the Mother of one of the Boys, in the Appendix, pag. 21.)

The Beef served to the Pensioners having been for some time found to be of a bad quality, the Broth poor, and the mess-pieces small; the Men complained, and were answered, "that they were never to be satisfied." This favourite maxim of Tyranny and Oppression was here equally ill founded and insolent. The Men had not loudly complained till now, and now there was an evident reason for it: the impositions, both in quantity and quality, were indeed so evident, that had the complaints of the Pensioners, or the strongest representations of the Naval Officers, to the Board of Directors, been attended to, the full proof, which soon afterwards presented itself, would have been unnecessary.

In September, 1772, a Captain of the House received an anonymous letter, (See Appendix, pag. 9 and 10.) acquainting him that a part of the Hospital allowance of Beef was stolen, and pointing out a mode of detection. He accordingly, with the Captain and Lieutenant of the Week, went to the Cook-room, where they found fifty-seven pounds of beef secreted in different places, after the proper number of mess-pieces were cut up; which, when first produced, was claimed by the Contractor's servant, as surplus meat, the property of his Master; but it was proved there was no surplus (when delivered) exceeding four pounds. The Contractor's Man, who would make no confession, or farther justification, was then carried before Mr. Justice Brett, of Greenwich, before whom the Officers entered into recognizance to prosecute him; but the Justice afterwards thought proper to admit him to bail; and cold water being also thrown upon it in the Hospital, application was then made to Sir John Fielding, when that active and spirited Magistrate declared the Man guilty of felony. After having examined some witnesses upon oath, he issued his own warrant to re-apprehend him, and, as he did not think proper to make any discoveries, advised a rigorous prosecution, saying, that, had he been first brought to him, he would have caused him to be hanged at the Gates of the Hospital *in terrorem*: he was accordingly indicted at the next Sessions at Maidstone, when he was found guilty, to the entire Satisfaction of a crowded court, and sentenced to be transported for seven years. A few days before his tryal, he sent a message to a Captain and Lieutenant of the House, promising a full discovery; but having, as it is supposed, been in the mean

* When the stolen beef was produced before the Justice, he was so much struck with its appearance, that he desired it might be compared with some which had just been served for the Workhouse, (where the examinations had been taken) which appeared to be of a much superior quality. The Justice expressed a surprise, sufficiently mortifying to the Officers, that Greenwich Hospital should be served with meat inferior to that consumed in a common Workhouse.

time flattered with the hopes of pardon, no further confession could be obtained from him, than that "the *Ruffe-men* of the Hospital had the greatest share*."

The Justices who tried him, received a letter, apparently from high authority, requesting them to recommend *Emanuel Tucker* to royal mercy. This the Magistrates, much to their honour, thought proper to decline; for, though it was evident that justice had not reached the principal criminals, yet the present victim was sufficiently guilty to deserve his fate, sufficient ground having appeared on the tryal, to believe that such robberies had been daily practised for a number of years.

The 'Scape-goat *Tucker*' was at length actually transported, and submitted quietly to his fate, without any farther attempts at discovery or recrimination; having doubtless been supplied with motives which were sufficient to secure his silence, as no respite could be obtained †.

The DIRECTORS never made the least enquiry into the bottom of an affair that wore so black an appearance: "Business still went on;" the same Contractor was still continued; the Steward and his Clerks, the Clerk of the Cheque and his Clerks, the Cook and his Mates, still exercised the functions of their respective offices, without any imputation of negligence, incapacity, or criminal participation.

This temporary triumph of Justice therefore produced no reformation: the complaints increased: pieces of boiled beef were frequently brought to the Officers, so tough, and so hard, that they could neither be chewed nor digested. This grievance is particularly severe on old Seamen: accustomed all their lives to live principally on beef, they prefer it to any other food; their teeth decay early, and the defect of mastication is ill supplied by a diseased stomach. The Officers saw the justness of the complaint: they felt severely for the oppressions under which the honest old Seamen laboured, without being able to give or point

* Nothing new was learnt by this confession, of which no legal use could be made. The anonymous information afterwards appeared to have been given by a Pensioner, attending in the Cook-room, who would never have thought of concealing his name, had he supposed that *Tucker* stole the meat on his own account.

† It is more than probable, that this *Tucker* (who was also a principal instrument to the same Contracting Butcher at the Victualling Office, and a Cutter of the Beef and Pork killed there for his Majesty's Sea-service) could have made some very curious and important discoveries of the Mysteries of that Office, had the whole of this business been properly investigated; for it is notorious, that there are frequent deficiencies, both in the puncheons of Beef, and the barrels of Pork, which are supplied to the King's ships. The nation, however, got rid of a most infamous culprit.

point out any relief: they knew too well the interest of the Contractor, and the maxims which govern the Board of Directors, to hope that any could be obtained.

How little it was in the power of the Naval Officers to give relief, and how little it was the inclination of the Civil Officers that any should be obtained, fully appeared in a scene which happened at a time when the Men were making daily complaints.

The Captain of the Week upon duty, observing some beef of a particularly coarse and disagreeable appearance delivered in the kitchen, told the Steward, that, as it was evidently improper to be received, it ought to be rejected by a survey, and good meat purchased in Greenwich market, at the expence of the Contractor, agreeable to a clause in the contract for that purpose. The young Steward, Godby, (who had then been but a few months in office,) replied, that he had received it, and it should therefore be dressed for the Men; adding that, as he did not send for the Captain of the Week to survey it, he had no business to interfere.

The Captain then thought proper to order the sentinel to prevent its being cut up; and acquainted the Lieutenant Governor, who repaired to the Kitchen, and saw the beef not only bad in itself (as usual) but that the prime pieces had been cut out of three different quarters, though the *contract* was expressly for good fat Ox-beef, to be delivered in intire quarters. Notwithstanding that this, now delivered, differed in every particular, the Steward repeated, that the meat was received, and should be cut up; and seemed determined to support the dignity of his office; and his Father (a Steward to Lord Sandwich) who was present, very impertinently interfered, saying, that the meat was very fit for the Pensioners, and that his son was a *Man of Spirit*, and should not be insulted.

The blustering importance of the Steward, though aided by this new Officer of Greenwich Hospital, the *Steward's Father*, at length subsided. A survey was taken, and the beef rejected.

But this was done, not on account of the quality, but of the *indisputable breach of Contract*, in delivering quarters with all the prime pieces cut out: but so little does the Contractor attend to checks of this kind, that, when on other occasions meat has been rejected, it has been delivered again, as was generally believed, the next day.

An appearance of relief, however, soon after unexpectedly presented itself: incontrovertible proofs were given, that the complaints of the Pensioners, concerning the quality of the beef, were well founded; and the conviction of the Contractor in a public court of justice seemed to promise redress, as the frauds could no longer be defended or palliated: but the whole has ended in disappointment and mortification, and left the poor Men still exposed to the rapacious disposition of a convicted knave.

On the first day of June, 1775, Mr. Moore, one of the Cook's Mates in the Hospital, acquainted the Steward, that the meat then delivering was either Bull, or Bull-Stag Beef. The Steward thought proper to lay the information before the Governor, who is said to have ordered it to be received, if it looked fair to the eye; * and it was received accordingly. The Cook then carried several pieces (which, when boiled, were impenetrable to the teeth) to the Lieutenant Governor, whom he informed that the Contractor's Men had told him that it was the flesh of Bulls.

The Lieutenant Governor desired to see the Men, when they all confirmed the assertion. On being cautioned concerning the importance of the information, they professed a readiness to confirm the fact on oath, before a Magistrate; adding several corroboratory circumstances, and promising to produce a quantity of the testicles of Bulls, and of Rams, whose flesh had been received, and served to the Pensioners, as good Ox Beef, and Weather Mutton.

On this they were taken to the Magistrate nearest to where they lived in London, which happened to be Mr. Justice Pell, before whom three depositions (see Appendix, pag: 18 and 19.) were taken, proving the frequent delivery of Bull's flesh, instead of good fat Ox-beef, agreeable to the terms of the contract.

Mr. Pell examined into the matter with great accuracy and impartiality; and expressed much surprise, that the Hospital had been so long, and so greatly imposed on;—observing, “that he had often wondered how the Contractor, whom he had formerly known a Butcher's common Servant, or Slaughter-house Man, had so suddenly become a Man of fortune and consequence; but that,

I

“if

* The Governor of Greenwich Hospital is too great a Man to reside frequently there, or to attend to the minutiae of his duty. He has generally objects to pursue of more importance to himself;—as, to be Admiral of the Fleet, to attend in Parliament, or to re-enter into actual service;—whereas the Officers of the Hospital ought to consist of such Men as have no other view, or expectation, or business, than a residence in the Hospital, and who will therefore turn their whole thoughts to that object. Instead of this, the Governor, who by his instructions is directed to hold a council once a week at least, for the good government of the Hospital, does not preside in council once a year.

"if he could get contracts for good Ox beef, and serve the flesh of Bulls, the
"wonder was at an end." *

Mr. *Pell*, having thought proper to commit the original depositions to the care of the Lieutenant Governor, he caused them to be authenticated by a Notary, and presented them, in the presence of the Captain and Lieutenant of the Week, to the Governor, desiring redress on the part of the Men.

The Governor seemed to think the matter of little consequence, as every body, he said, was cheated more or less by Butchers.—He then desired to know why the Lieutenant Governor had taken so decisive a step, as that of examining Witnesses upon oath, without his previous approbation.—To this he was answered, That, as every complaint respecting the provisions, which had been made by the Pensioners, and represented by the Council to the Board of Directors, had produced no redress, or even reply, he (the Lieutenant Governor) was determined, that if the Governor did not lay these depositions before the Board of Directors, and if they did not prosecute the Contractor, he would himself carry them to the Admiralty, or as much farther as should be necessary. † (See his letter to Lord *Sandwich*, Appendix, pag. 19.)

The Governor then thought proper to receive and lay them before the Board of Directors, where they appeared to be extremely unwelcome; as some of the Members probably considered the charge as being equally strong against themselves, as against the Contractor. One of the most active Members of the Board, who appeared to be previously instructed, took upon him to aver, that the Butcher's Men had sworn thus out of revenge, that they were under a prosecution for having stolen the Contractor's meat, and that their evidence ought not to be attended to under such circumstances. This was however a base

* This Contracting Butcher died within those few months, said to be possessed of Seventy Thousand Pounds, which he had acquired in about twelve or fourteen years, during which he had been a large Contractor at the Victualling Office, and for the supply of the forces in North America. He was also a Freeholder of Huntingdonshire, and a distinguished Member of the Huntingdon Club, in the interest of Lord *Sandwich*. The Hospital Contracts had lately been made in the name of the Son, who has now succeeded to the honors and interest of his Father. During these disputes with the Hospital, a complaint was regularly made from the Captains of several Men of war, then fitting out at Portsmouth, and in the river, to the Commissioners of the Victualling, that beef was served to their Men, which they could not eat, and therefore they could neither be expected to work or fight. These important complaints were however soon hush'd up.—These are the circumstances that deter Men from entering voluntarily into the King's service, and not the tyranny of the Officers, as falsely represented.

† This, though a decisive, was certainly not a direct answer to Sir *Charles Hardy*'s question. The truth is, that the Governor was not previously consulted, from a thorough conviction that he would have endeavoured to prevent any serious enquiry into the matter, as he had always done before.

base falsehood; no such prosecution was then on foot, nor was there any ground for it. *

An order of the Board was at length with great difficulty obtained, to take the opinion of Council on the depositions. This opinion was immediately given in decisive terms; that it was a scandalous and meditated fraud, and recommending a rigorous prosecution. A prosecution was ordered to be commenced, which was for some time carried on in a very desultory manner: † but at length the tryal came on at *Guildhall*, before Lord *Mansfield*, when the Contractor was convicted, on the clearest evidence, of having supplied the flesh of Bulls and Bull-Stags, twenty seven times (all the beef days) in one quarter.

Mr. *Dunning*, Council for the Contractor, ingeniously attempted to ridicule the idea of a flock of Bulls, or of Rams, without which, he said, it was impossible his Client could be guilty: and he was perhaps the only Butcher in the kingdom for whom this argument would not have been good; but, as he sent so many droves of cattle to the Victualling Office, where they are obliged to be delivered alive, it was necessary to take out the bulls, which are mere make-weights in large bargains for cattle, yet were conveniently disposed of at *Greenwich Hospital*.

Lord *Mansfield* entered warmly into the cause of the “oppressed Old Men,” observing that Bull beef was not the thing contracted for: it was therefore a “palpable cheat, which could never have succeeded, but for the ignorance, “or corruption, of the officers who received it. If from ignorance, the imputation should fall on the person who appointed them.” ‡ His Lordship was proceeding to sum up the penalties of Twenty-seven Breaches of Contract, when he was interrupted by the Council for the Hospital, who informed him,

I 2

that

* Much pains were afterwards taken to give some appearance of reality to this story. These Men were allowed, by the custom of the trade, and by particular agreement, two pounds of steaks for their breakfast and dinner, which they had been accustomed to dress, at a public-house, in their way to the Hospital. On this ground, a charge of felony was cruelly and wickedly attempted to be grounded; but it totally failed.

† Many difficulties occurred (in the course of two years, during which time the tryal was depending) in keeping Witnesses together: some of them were prevailed upon to withdraw, others fled for fear of being pressed, and one died: but there was no other difficulty in supplying their places, than in finding more of the Contractor's Men, as they all uniformly agreed in the same story.

‡ A striking proof of the connection between the Civil Officers and the Contractor appeared in the course of the tryal; for his Council produced receipts for Ox beef, delivered agreeable to contract, with which he had been furnished by the Steward and Clerk of the Cheque, in order to strengthen the Contractor's defence against the Hospital.

that the action was brought for only Ten Breaches, at Ten Pounds each.* The verdict accordingly went for an Hundred Pounds, with full costs of suit.

As the evidence of the Men was pointed at different times, and under different contracts, this had created a necessity for dividing the actions. On the Solicitor proposing to go on with the second action, the *confidential Director*, and some others, exclaimed against it, calling it a *persecution*, and not a *prosecution*; for that the Butcher had already been sufficiently punished and exposed. This plea was urged with a spirit somewhat more than *Christian*, by the Reverend Director.

The Contractors, Father and Son, had been in possession of the contract ten or twelve years; during which time they had delivered about nine hundred pounds of meat, five times in every week, for which they were paid the prices of the best beef, mutton, &c. The contract under which they were convicted, was at Thirty-three Shillings per hundred; and, if the Bulls flesh which they delivered had been at all fit to have been bought for the Men, it might have been had for Sixteen or Seventeen Shillings per hundred. It is therefore evident that these Contractors must have been greatly enriched at the expence of the poor Pensioners.

Yet, for this long series of imposition, the Managing Directors, who ought to have felt the warmest resentment at being made the dupes of this criminal artifice, thought the Contractor sufficiently punished and exposed, in being obliged to refund One Hundred Pounds.

It happened however, unfortunately for the Contractor, that twice or three times, when his affairs came before the Board of Directors, the meeting was unusually respectable, there being present some of those independent Members who too seldom attend: the second action was therefore ordered to be proceeded on, in which Fifty Breaches were charged. When the second trial approached, the Contractor petitioned to compound the penalties; though he had, on other complaints against him, behaved at the Board with the greatest insolence, telling them that he would supply Greenwich Hospital; that he would keep the contract; that when this was out, he

WOULD

* The sum of Ten Pounds was intended merely as a penalty, if the Contractor did not deliver a certain quantity of meat in due time. A general bond of 300*l.* for the performance of the covenant, had always been taken in former times; but it was now found that this mode had been discontinued, or that they did not think proper to prosecute upon the bond. A fresh proof of the inattention of the Directors, and of the inability of the Secretary; otherwise the action for Ten Breaches of the contract, at 300*l.* each, must have been brought for Three Thousand Pounds.

WOULD have another ; and that there was no fault found with his Meat till that troublesome fellow, the Lieutenant Governor, got into office ; which caused a sneer of approbation among the Managing Directors. *

This Petition, however, was more welcome than the original Depositions, by which the affair was brought on ; and it seemed to be in a fair way of being accepted, when unluckily the Auditor was asked by the Governor, What he, as a Lawyer, thought of the matter ? He answered, That, as the whole transaction appeared to be of a very criminal nature, he would not advise the Board to compound the penalties.

On this opinion, the petition was rejected. It was offered again (with great humility) the next Board-day ; and again rejected, with an appearance of firmness.

The Managing Directors, who had not, for many years, met with so many difficulties in carrying any point at the Board, appeared to be much disconcerted ; and, in their private deliberations, the following manœuvre was said to be contrived.

The Sollicitor represented to the Board, at the next meeting, that when this cause appeared on the paper at Guildhall, the Council for the Hospital, in consequence of a conversation said to be held with the Judge, told him, the Sollicitor, that his Lordship seemed to recommend a composition with the contracting Butcher. Be that as it may, it was in this manner represented by the Sollicitor to the Board of Directors, when the usual seven or eight Members were present. This pretended recommendation was eagerly accepted by the Managers of the Hospital, as if his Lordship had, *on a view of the merits,* actually recommended a composition† ; and it now appears

* The confidential Director has frequently declared, that Government was under the necessity of employing this Contractor, as no other Man was able to give such large credit. It therefore became necessary, that the poor Pensioners of Greenwich Hospital should be fed with the flesh of Bulls, and of Rams, in order to furnish him with as much Ready Money as possible. He has also given it out in the Hospital, that Lord Sandwich will mark any Man that supports the Lieutenant Governor ; and that, if he brings the affairs of the Hospital before a Great Assembly, he will supersede him in his office.

† It may be necessary to enquire who instructed or authorized the Council on this occasion. The public sense of the Board of Directors was, that the Petition of the Contractor should be totally rejected, and the prosecution carried on ; and thus it stood in the minutes of the last Board. It is somewhat extraordinary, that a cause in behalf of the poor old Pensioners of Greenwich Hospital, on which their future happiness so essentially depended, should, in this stage of the business, be suppressed ; when their anxious hopes were flattered with relief, by exemplary and condign punishment from the hands of Justice.

appears, in the minutes of the Board, as the ground for compounding the penalties. The Butcher having gained this advantage, and hoping doubtless to escape entirely, refused to submit to the terms proposed by the Board, till the tryal was actually called on at Guildhall, and all the evidence ready in Court, lest a verdict should be obtained by surprise. The Naval Officers, and many of the Pensioners, who attended on this occasion with great anxiety, had then the mortification to hear it declared, that the Contractor had accepted the terms proposed by the Directors ; that is, he agreed to pay One Hundred pounds, instead of Five, for which the last action was instituted ; * on which Lord Mansfield observed, “*That it was well for him that he had.*” This expression, and several others on the former tryal, prove that his Lordship’s sentiments were by no means favourable to the Contractor, or his abettors ; and the conjecture may be hazarded, that he will hear with surprise and indignation, that it now appears on the Records of Greenwich Hospital, that the Contracting Butcher escaped a second humiliation by his advice.

After this scene, in which justice was so artfully eluded, the Contractor retired from the Court to the Tavern, where the Steward, the Clerk of the Works, and other Members of the *Civil Interest*, were entertained by the Sollicitor of the Hospital, at the expence of the Contractor ; and one of them expressed himself in a triumphant letter, which he wrote on the occasion, “ that they dined elegantly, and regaled on *French* wines ; whilst their “ foes†, the Lieutenant-Governor and his party, sneaked off, like dogs who “ had lost their tails.” This pert vulgarity is fully expressive of the opinion which was entertained, on all sides, of this *composition*, which was considered as a complete victory on the part of the Contractor, and his Friends in the Direction ; and that the prosecution, which had been carried on with so much trouble and expence for two years, and by which the Pensioners hoped to have been relieved from one of the greatest oppressions under which they laboured, was totally defeated.

Highly

* Every shilling of this sum would doubtless have been given by the Jury, as many aggravating circumstances had been discovered which would have appeared in evidence. The Jury, on the former tryal, seemed greatly hurt that they could not punish the Contractor in a more exemplary manner ; for, instead of bringing the action for Ten Pounds in each breach, it ought to have been instituted for Three Hundred in every breach, had the original bond been properly executed.

† The Naval Officers certainly retired from the Court much hurt, that the Contractor and his associates had escaped the justice they had merited. These Officers always wish to be considered as the foes of such men ; but they had no personal interest in the dispute, as they have Table-money instead of Provisions, which (for the satisfaction of the Judge, in the former tryal) appeared by the oath of one of the Officers. They had therefore no other concern, in detecting the frauds of the Contractor, than what arose from a laudable zeal in the care and protection of the poor Men, for which express purpose they are themselves established in the Hospital.

Highly culpable as this whole proceeding was on the part of the Directors, they thought proper to go still farther: for whilst the second prosecution was actually carrying on, they were so far lost to all sense of decent shame, as to renew the contract with the Butcher, on the same terms and conditions as those under which all the frauds had been practised.

This conduct, which it is to be hoped, for the honour of the numerous and respectable body of Commissioners, Guardians, and Directors, of public Business and public Charities, is totally unprecedented, proves, in the most incontestible manner, that the present Acting Directors, in whose hands the whole internal power and management of *Greenwich Hospital* is now lodged, are, from a want of ability, or want of *integrity*, unfit to be any longer intrusted with so important a charge.

The termination of this prosecution put an end to all expectation of relief from the Law*. Many other frauds might have been proved as fully as those of the Beef; but, as the Directors must have been the Plaintiffs, it was in vain to expect that they would not again betray the Cause of the Pensioners.

About Forty Pounds of Veal per week is used in the Infirmary. This, as good Veal is dearer than Beef, furnishes a pretext for raising the price fixed by the contract; though Forty Pounds per week bears a trifling proportion to the whole quantity of Meat used. This necessary indulgence to persons under the care of the Physician and Surgeon has been so much perverted as to become the subject of the most pathetic complaints; the Veal served being generally suspected to be the flesh of slunk Calves, or at most a few days old, the appearance being in the highest degree disgusting, and the meat sometimes putrid. The Minutes of the Council, respecting the Veal complained of by the Physician, Surgeon, and Dispenser (See Appendix, pag. 12, 13.) establish this fact; but to what purpose? for, when it was intended to produce this Veal before every Officer of the House in Council, it was found that the Butcher had been permitted secretly to take it away. The Minutes of the Council, and Attestation of several Officers, setting forth the bad quality of the Meat, were however presented in form to the Directors, and little or no notice taken of it:

the

* Mr. Moore, the Cook, a very honest and worthy Man, who made the first discovery, has since been repeatedly threatened to be turned out of the Hospital; and his situation has been rendered very disagreeable. See his Letter of Complaint to Lord Sandwich, begging his protection (Appendix, pag. 20.) He had disbursed a considerable sum of money, on account of these trials, during two years; great part of which the Directors refused to pay him (though he had sworn to the account) instead of rewarding him for his earnest services to the Hospital: but this conduct in the Managing Directors is quite consistent, as their uniform plan is to prevent, and not encourage, discoveries of this kind.

the Butcher was resolved to have, and to hold the Contract; and there does not at present appear to be any remedy*.

On the five Festival-days, which are the King's Birth-day, Accession, Coronation, the Queen's Birth-day, and the Royal Founder's Coronation, the Pensioners are sometimes entertained with Pork, and they have Ale instead of Small Beer. These were doubtless intended, in the most amiable spirit of benevolence, as days of mirth and rejoicing; yet it appears, that even on those days the Pensioners are not exempt from imposition, nor the Naval Officers from insult when they interfere on their behalf. (See Lieutenant *Ansell's* Letter to the Directors, Appendix, pag. 27.)

The anxious care so remarkable in the first establishment, appears to have been particularly exerted in providing good Small Beer, an article of great consequence to the health and comfort of the Pensioners, as, from the necessary frugalities of an Hospital-allowance, they can seldom hope to taste any other liquor. During the time of the good Steward, Mr. *Bell*, the Beer was so remarkably fine, that it has been urged as a matter of reproach to the management, as if too large an expence was incurred in this article, by supplying the Men with small Ale instead of Beer. This reproach is now *completely done away*, though it is certain, that (after making every allowance for the different price of Malt and Hops) the sour maigre Beer, now served to the Pensioners, costs the Hospital more money than the small Ale of former times.

Common Brewing, where nothing is attempted but to obtain a decoction of Malt and Hops, is an extremely simple operation, and is thoroughly understood by every notable Housewife; but the trade of Brewing is a very mysterious affair, in which it is supposed that Malt and Hops are very little concerned; as it consists principally in the knowledge of certain drugs, which, though they greatly increase the profits of the Brewer, by no means add to the goodness of the Beer.

In the Book of the establishment, printed in the year 1738, there appears, among the *Servants* of the Hospital, a Supervisor of the Brewing, at Ten Pounds per annum†. What was then brewed must be supposed to be Housewife's

* The most colourable pretence for his holding this contract is, that he undertakes to supply the best meat on lower terms than any other person. Several Butchers in Greenwich, who have been rash enough to enter into a contest with him, have obtained the Contracts, and been much hurt by them: for, as they got these Contracts in opposition to a Favourite, they were obliged to supply good meat; whilst the favourite Contractor, appearing to offer the lowest terms, really sells meat of the worst kind for double its value. This, which is the great Mystery of Contracting, ought to be understood by all those who have *no interest*, yet feel a desire to become Contractors.

† This person was the First Clerk of the good Steward, Mr. *Bell*, who himself occasionally Superintended the whole process.

Wife's Beer; for no Man of Skill in the Mysteries of Brewing could be retained for that sum. A Master Brewer has since been appointed, at a salary of Sixty Pounds per annum, and Twenty Pounds table-money; with Apartments, Coals, Candles, &c. This material advance of rank and salary will account for considerable alterations in the Beer; but the advance is by no means equal to the importance of the person appointed to this office: he having been the principal Brewer at Parsons' and Dickenson's great Brewhouse, was (on the failure of the latter) recommended to the First Lord of the Admiralty by a Director of the East-India Company, a particular friend and supporter of his Lordship's interest at the India-House.

It is somewhat strange, that it could occur to his Lordship, that a person of so much *scientific skill*, supported by such powerful interest, could be properly provided for by an appointment to brew Small Beer for the Pensioners of Greenwich Hospital. Certainly no such person was wanted in the Hospital; and his appointment had a very portentous appearance to the Pensioners, as the business originally performed by a person little more than a labouring Servant, was now deemed a *Place*, which would, as usual, either be converted into a *Sinecure*, or the new Officer permitted to employ his skill and influence in increasing the Emoluments of his Office, which, in this case, must be judged to be very considerable, as the expence of the Malt, Hops, &c. in this Brewery, where there is no Excise, amounts to near 4000*L.* per annum, and the Small Beer very frequently not fit to drink.

The Pensioners, already much irritated by the frauds which had been practised on them by the Contracting Butcher and his Accomplices, shewed the warmest resentment on finding themselves attacked in so interesting a matter as their Beer. Instead of that excellent beverage to which the elder Pensioners had been used, what was now served to them was thick, sour, or maukish: complaints were repeatedly and regularly made to the Officers of the Week, which were laid before the Council; and, upon the examination of the Master Brewer before the Council, he acknowledged that the Beer complained of was sour, and that he was then breaking it in, or mixing it with fresh Beer, for the use of the Pensioners.

Upon this confession, the Council immediately rose, and repaired to the Brewhouse, where, on a careful survey, they found 4000 gallons of Beer, which had not yet been mixed, and which was as sour as the nature of Small Beer would admit of. (See Appendix, pag. 17.) This they ordered to be started, and thrown away, as the only effectual remedy on the spot, and without delay, agreeably to the Seventeenth Article of the printed instruc-

tions. * The state of the complaint, and the proceedings of the Council, were laid before the First Lord of the Admiralty, and the Directors; which only produced a slight reprimand to the Brewer. But the Started Beer seemed to produce much stronger resentment in their minds: though they did not venture to insert any censure in their records, yet some of them afterwards hinted, in a very significant manner, particularly the *confidential Director*, that they would not advise the Council, in future, to act so decisively.

Notwithstanding these complaints, the Beer continued to be maukish, ill-tasted, and watery, and generally sour before night: in some of the Men it produced convulsive gripes; in others, sickness and diarrhoea. On this account, they refused to drink what was laid for them at dinner; some leaving it for several days together on the dining-tables: others, who had wives and children, took it to carry home, but were afterwards obliged to throw it away, as neither themselves nor families could make any use of it. This scandalous abuse continuing, and no appearance of relief, numbers of the Men paraded the Hospital, threatening to appeal, themselves, in a body, to the Admiralty. † Some of the Officers used every means in their power to quell these disturbances, and to pacify the Men by persuasion and advice; for harsh means they could not use, as they knew the justice of their complaints. Such means

* On board his Majesty's ships, all provisions that are condemned by survey, as not fit for Men to eat or drink, are thrown overboard. The Directors, instead of ordering the Brewer to pay for this beer, suffered the loss to fall upon the Hospital.

+ In this state of riot and confusion, (the Governor being ill in London, and not then visible) the Lieutenant Governor went from his House to Lord Sandwich, with the minutes of the Council, (see Appendix, pag. 25.) and acquainted him with the cause of the tumultuous assemblies of the Men, arising from the corruption or incapacity of the Civil department, and with the improper conduct of the Steward to several Officers of the House, the Commanding Officer not excepted, (see Appendix, pag. 27.) His Lordship replied, "As to the complaint of the beer, it does not come before me officially; I shall therefore take no notice of it; and if the Steward has affronted you, Sir, I suppose he will not refuse to give you satisfaction, if you ask it. When I appointed you Lieutenant Governor, I thought I had not only given you a *lecture* myself, advising you not to interrupt *Business*, but that your friends had done so also." To this it was answered, "I shall be always obliged to your Lordship for advice; but I do not understand being *lectured*, as I am not conscious I have done any wrong: but if you mean to accuse me of any breach of duty to your Lordship or the Hospital, I am ready to answer publickly for my conduct." He then repeated, "that business was interrupted." — The Lieutenant Governor reply'd, "that as he now saw complaints were not to be heard, and as he could no longer render justice to the Men under his care, he would accept an equivalent in any part of his Majesty's dominions, notwithstanding his ill state of health." His Lordship was pleased to say, "it would be the same thing in any other department." — The Lieutenant Governor then retired, thanking his Lordship for this gentle reproof, being the first he had incurred during forty years faithful service; contemplating at the same time on the hardships of the Pensioners, and that probably it might (as his Lordship observed) be the same thing in any other department—in which his Lordship presided.—A few days after, the Steward and Clerk of the Works, whose conduct is on all occasions much approved by their Coadjutors in the *Civil Interest*, thought proper to parade the Hospital, more like *petits maîtres*, just arrived from Paris, *l'épée à côté*, than Servants to the Hospital.

would indeed have been impracticable, where all were concerned. The Council, after hearing a variety of evidence, which is stated at large in the Appendix, pag. 23, 24, 25, and 26. laid their reports before the Board of Directors; where they produced no other effect than another *formal* reprimand to the Brewer, and an order to take more care for the future. This was understood on all sides to mean nothing, and the Brewer accordingly made no alteration in the Beer.

The allowance of Beer for each day is conveyed, by subterraneous pipes, from the Brewhouse to the Dining-hall. At a time when the beer had been for some time particularly bad, the run was observed to be frequently interrupted, and water issue from the cocks: many gallons, with a very slight mixture of Beer, were daily caught in different vessels. The Butler sent his assistant to the brewhouse to know the cause of their sending water instead of beer; *Pope* the foreman answered, with an insolent sneer, natural enough to a fellow who was conscious of protection, "Don't you know?" No. "Then you never 'shall'."—No other justification could afterwards be made by the Brewer, or his servants, than a strange improbable tale of a leakage in a water-pipe, that was sometimes used to cleanse the beer-pipes. This the said *Pope* pretended that "he had been attempting to prevail on the Clerk of the Works to get 'stopped, without effect, for six months;" though the important Mr. *Dickie*, the Turncock, had any such leak existed, might have stopped it in a few minutes: but if this was the case, what became of the great surplus of beer which must have arisen from this constant influx of water for so long a period? The Butler received no more than his proper quantity, measuring both beer and water; and if the full quantity of beer was brewed, what was become of it? This enquiry however the Directors did not think proper to pursue: they ordered the suspected pipe to be cut off,—and "Business to go on." The pipe was accordingly cut off; but another was suspected to lurk somewhere about the beer-pipes, which performed its business much better than the other, as the beer continued equally weak, but more uniformly mixed than before.*

The declaration in the Appendix, pag. 14. which led to a full discovery that a strong extract had ~~ever~~ been taken from the malt in the brewhouse, and that Ale, or Strong Beer, had been clandestinely carried out of the Hospital at midnight,

* The Brewer, who was probably satisfied with the advantages he had gained, withdrew himself without leave from the Hospital, and took up his residence near *Black Heath*; he has since resigned in favour of a person who was formerly an Ensign of the Guards, who sold out to commence Brewer in Greenwich, (where he became a Bankrupt) and who procured himself this place by his interest with Mr. *Ibbetson*, the Secretary. If he follows the example of his Predecessor, and the instructions of his Patrons, he will have an excellent opportunity of retrieving his misfortunes; at present the usual effects of a *new broom* are experienced, by the improvement in the Small Beer, though it cannot be said to be the sort of beer that was served in the days of the good Steward, Mr. *Bell*, of respectable memory.

N. B. If a *Land Officer* can be so easily transformed into a *Brewer*, surely some unfortunate *Sea Officer* might with equal ease, and greater propriety, be benefited by a like *Metamorphosis*.

midnight, and several other circumstances, which wore a very criminal aspect, were laid before the Governor, by the Captain and Lieutenant of the week: it was however thought proper to stifle this complaint, on the ground, that if the Brewer or his servants were turned out, or prosecuted, they might impeach the Officers who had received this more cordial beverage.

The abuses in the rest of the necessaries, in proportion to their several consequences, are equally grievous and unjustifiable: a few instances shall be presented.

The Linen Cloth is purchased in bales, and is cut up by the *Civil Officers' Clerks' Wives*, who have the entire management of it, without ever consulting the Matrons; the consequence of which is, that the Men's shirts, sheets, &c. have been gradually decreasing in size and goodness for some years; and the Men complain that they are in general so very badly washed, that they never have even the comfort of a clean shirt, except they wash it themselves, after it is delivered by the Contractor as clean, when in reality it appears rather to have been dragged through a kennel, or an horse-pond, than washed in a laundry. Yet what is called washing, is a charge to the Hospital, of near Fourteen Hundred Pounds per annum, and the linen delivered in a stinking offensive state. (See the minutes of the Council, Appendix, pag. 32.) It is a truly lamentable case, that a complaint of this nature, so affecting to a number of poor Men in the evening of life, should have remained for many years unredress'd.

The Woolen Cloth is also delivered in bales, and made up in the taylor's shop in the Hospital; which not only deprives the House of a large ward, but exposes the building to accidents by fire, from the carelessness of journeymen tailors, who work by candle-light.

No standard or proportion is settled, either for linen or woolen: when more is wanted, more is ordered from the Contractors, without any proper enquiry into the quantities which have been really used in the clothes of the Pensioners.

This, which is a material object of expence, calls loudly for strict enquiry, and thorough regulation. It is strange that no means of stopping so palpable an inlet to frauds, has ever been settled; * or rather, that the several articles

have

* In the establishment of a person to mend the Flags, (which is performed by a Pensioner) a salary is appointed of Half a Crown a year; and care is taken that this stipend shall include Thread: the Directors must have been in a very careful humour, when they formed this ostentatiously minute regulation; it is to be wished, that they had at the same time taken into their consideration the danger of leaving all the clothing in an unsettled state, as they might have formed economical regulations of more material consequence than this, concerning two penny-worth of thread.

have not been contracted for ready-made, and served to the Pensioners by the Steward, in like manner as the slop-clothes are issued by the Purser to Seamen in his Majesty's ships; which is much the most eligible and frugal method, provided the contracts were properly formed, and the Contractors kept up to the due performance thereof.

The Pensioners, in *May 1777*, complained to the Council, that their Shoes were worn out in a fortnight, though they are allowed but three pair in two years. On examining a pair presented by a complainant, it was found that a great part of the internal thickness of the sole was formed of *brown paper*. (See Appendix, pag. 26.) On enquiring farther into the matter, it appeared that shoes had been formerly contracted for at Four Shillings and Sixpence a pair, but that last year a new contract had been entered into at Three Shillings and Seven Pence Halfpenny, though the price of leather is considerably advanced.

About the same time, the Stockings were still in a much worse state: (see Appendix, pag. 26.) they fell into holes on the first wearing; and when the quality was known among the Pensioners, great numbers refused to receive them: this obliged the Steward to complain to the Directors, that the stockings were not agreeable to contract. The Directors then ordered the Steward to return one third to the Contractor, and to issue out the rest to the Men, on pretence that there was not time to procure others, though the Men declared that they would rather have kept the old stockings, which they returned, than the new ones which they received; and eventually it proved, that several of the Men, after wearing the new but a few days, returned them instead of the old stockings, which had been in wear two years.

If the Contractor had not fulfilled his contract, he ought to have been prosecuted for the penalty, or proper stockings procured at his expence: returning one third of those delivered was a very feeble attempt to obtain justice for the Hospital, or for the Men; and it is strongly suspected that the same stockings were afterwards re-delivered, as they were equally bad. But the fault was in the contract itself: twenty pence a pair had been for some years given to a reputable and honest Citizen of *London*, a Mr. *Pope*; and he supplied such as were substantial, and lasted the full term, three pair for two years, as they were such as could not be bought by the single pair under Two Shillings. The new contract is Nineteen Pence per pair, and the stockings delivered totally unfit for use.

The Directors may perhaps be weak enough to plume themselves on these proofs of their care, in reducing the price of the necessaries used by the Pensioners;

Pensioners; and of saving some part of the money which they are lavishing in cleaning Pictures, pulling down substantial Brick Walls, rebuilding them with Stone, taking down Pediments, finishing with other Ornaments, building Allcoves, lengthening Gravel-walks, destroying Stone Piers and their noble appendages the large and ornamented Iron Gates, building a Room fronting the Thames, said to be intended for a Billiard-table, raising the Walls of the Secretary's Garden, for the convenience of his Cold Bath and Cowhouse, ploughing up the Burying-ground, * &c. destroying the Store-yard for the private convenience of the Clerk of the Works, building another at a great expence, and converting one of the Offices into a Nursery for this Clerk's Children: some of which unnecessary and expensive alterations are carrying on without the knowledge or consent of the Governor, † Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, or any other principal Officer of the Hospital: and what are termed *necessary works*, intended to be carried on for the year 1778, are estimated in the sum of 4,500*l.* whilst it may be truly said the Poor Men are strangers to clean linen, and have scarcely shoes or stockings to their feet. ‡

It is to be hoped that Men more conscientious and considerate than the present Managing Directors will not deem this a proper manner of fulfilling their remaining duty of contracting for necessaries used in the Hospital; which is not merely the purchasing a nominal commodity at a low price: they are to take care that the thing contracted for be fit for use, and worth the money given for it. In order to this, they should be acquainted with the value of the several commodities, give reasonable prices, and compel a full performance of the contracts, by a rigid exaction of the penalties. §

But

* Nothing can be more ridiculous than the pomp of the two young Clergymen, who are so much afraid of exposing themselves to the dews of Heaven, or the damps of Earth, that though they are generally attended in the Burying-ground by a crowd of old people, yet they perform the funeral rites of the Pensioners with a degree of unprecedented pomp and parade, viz. under a Canopy, in a machine resembling a Sedan-chair, which is carried by four Pensioners, with great difficulty, from grave to grave, where, notwithstanding this ostentation, three or four men are buried in one hole to save trouble. Hence it is evident that these Parsons take more care of their own Bodies, than of the Souls of the Pensioners.

† On the twenty second of December, 1777, at a General Court of Commissioners, the Governor thought proper to represent, that there were new works and alterations carrying on in the Hospital, without his *privy or consent*, of the design of which he was totally ignorant, particularly the New Room fronting the Thames, and desired the same to be postponed for further consideration. It was ordered to be postponed accordingly.

‡ Greenwich Hospital, instead of bearing a strong resemblance to a ship of war well moored in a safe harbour, where good order and discipline prevail, is more like a vessel driven ashore in distress, when parties are formed by the refractory part of the crew, to depose the Captain, in order to enslave, pillage, and plunder the rest of the ship's company.

§ The Steward is ordered by his instructions to lay before the Directors, once a quarter, the market price of the several articles used in the Hospital. If he performed this duty, the Directors must know that proper shoes could not be purchased at three shillings and seven pence halfpenny, or stockings at nineteen pence per pair.

But it is not from these Men, in whose hands the management of the Hospital now is, that this can ever be expected. It is from the Court of Commissioners alone, and such a Court of Noble Personages as was intended to be established by the First Commissions, that the poor Pensioners in Greenwich Hospital can ever hope for any substantial or permanent relief.

The present Junto have been particularly solicitous to give specious names to their innovations and insidious improvements. The *Charity Stock*, the *Civil Interest*; the care of *finishing the Building*; obtaining a new *Charter of Incorporation*; correcting and improving the *Book of Instructions*, without the approbation of the Council; contracting for provisions and necessaries at the *lowest prices*; and the care of preventing any interruption *in the Business*,—are the hypocritical cloaks under which the noble design of the establishment has been *subverted*. And the leading measures for redressing the evils here complained of will be—To root up and destroy the *Civil Interest*, for none ought to exist in a Naval establishment:—To restore the whole government of the House to the Governor and Council, who should be sworn to do justice to the Pensioners, according to their conscience and the establishment of the Hospital:—To consolidate the Charity Stock in the general fund:—To abolish totally the Butler's list, and Chalk-off list:—To give the Men on the Money-list the full value of their provisions:—To dissolve the contract with the Butcher, and except him in future, by public advertisement; the poor Pensioners having already groaned under his yoke for twelve years:—To leave caring about finishing the building, for it is already finished:—To surrender the present Charter, and humbly petition his Majesty for a new one more consonant to the original Commissions:—No longer to carry on what is termed *business*, without paying regard to material information, or reasonable complaints:—And to discharge every person from the Hospital, be their *rank* or situation what it may, who shall not appear to have been admitted agreeable to the sole end and design of the establishment.

We now proceed to give some account of the Officers belonging to, and dependent on Greenwich Hospital, who from the nature of their respective duties cannot reside therein, but nevertheless hold lucrative and respectable employments, to which Seafaring Men are alone entitled.

The RECEIVER, the ACCOMPTANT, and COMPTROLLER

Of the SIXPENCES from SEAMEN'S WAGES, for the Benefit of the HOSPITAL, all hold Places of considerable trust and profit: and though their own salaries and emoluments, as well as the wages and disbursements of the Housekeeper, Clerks, &c. &c. all arise so immediately from the sweat of the Seamen's brows, and are paid out of their Sixpences, yet these Offices are all in the possession of Landmen, one of whom is a Freeholder of Huntingdonshire, and Member of the Standing:

Standing Committee of Directors of Greenwich Hospital; and one of the others is a Member of the British Parliament, and also a Director of the Hospital.

The RECTOR of SYMONDBORNE

enjoys, from this Living, a Thousand Pounds per annum, which arises out of the Derwentwater Estate, belonging to the Hospital. It seems right that the perpetual advowson of this valuable Living should be sold; but instead of this, the Hospital has lately *bought* another presentation. This attention to the interests of the Hospital cannot therefore be expected, though it would produce a fund for the maintenance of a considerable number of additional Pensioners. At any rate it should have been given to some deserving Clergyman, selected from the Navy.

Lord Sandwich, however, thought it a proper provision for a *Party Writer*, and presented it to his famous friend *Anti-Sejanus*; whose services to his Country, if he ever rendered any, were certainly not of a kind which intitled him to be provided for by Greenwich Hospital.

The STEWARDS, or RECEIVERS, of the DERWENTWATER ESTATE.

Two Persons are appointed to this trust, who are allowed to retain Five per Cent. from the Rents, and from the profits of the Mines; the gross amount of which is about 26,000£. per annum; so that the emoluments are nearly 600£. a year to each Steward, without estimating the value of those frequent opportunities, which Stewards must not be *supposed* to make use of, especially at such distances.

In the active departments of Government, Men of genius and promising qualifications, merely as such, are properly employed in places to which every Subject is equally eligible; and recommendation, or what is termed *interest*, may demand attention. But in all the appointments, in or belonging to Greenwich Hospital, the great *end* of the Foundation should ever be kept in view—that of rewarding *past* services.

Every Seaman in the various lines of service has a claim of *right*, which can only be superseded by *superior* claims; and therefore the appointment of every person (particularly to places of trust or considerable emolument) is in fact a *decision* on the claims of the whole Navy; and in proportion as this idea is infringed on, the uses of the Hospital are at an end.

Were it generally believed in the Navy, that all the lucrative and respectable appointments in or belonging to Greenwich Hospital were open only to Seafaring

Seafaring Men, and to be obtained only by superior abilities, care, and integrity, it would evidently have the most beneficial effects on the Service.*

One of these Stewardships lately became vacant, by the resignation of the celebrated Mr. Smeaton, whose private business (in his own opinion) interfered with the proper discharge of the trust. To this place a Mr. Turner has been appointed, with the aid of a ridiculous farce, which Lord Sandwich thinks proper to call an *Election*.

Mr. Turner is not a Seafaring Man: his appointment is therefore an implied declaration, that there is not in the whole Navy a Man to be found, who is fit to be associated with the present Steward (Mr. Walton) in this important charge: yet integrity and attention are the principal requisites; and the Hospital is more likely to suffer, than receive benefit, from the dexterity of her new Steward.

Mr. Turner's claim of services on Lord Sandwich, were however strong, and probably irresistible.—He had been an Attorney in Huntingdonshire, and an active Agent in the several contested Elections of his Patron: He had also been introduced into the Corporation of Huntingdon, and served the office of Mayor: But the most important service in which he had been engaged, was that of a Jobber of Estates, *i.e.* making purchases of Land and Houses, and dividing them into Forty-shilling Freeholds, which were sold to Commanders in the Fleet, to Officers in the several departments under the Admiralty, and to Officers in the Hospital, on the implied condition of voting in the interest of Lord Sandwich.

When this Mr. Turner was produced before the Court of Commissioners and Governors of the Hospital, at the Admiralty, it appeared that he was solely dependent on Lord Sandwich, by whose interest he had been appointed Commissioner of Bankrupts. When examined, he said he had given up his practice as an *Attorney*, and was then studying the law as a *Barrister*. This information concerning himself was received as a very high recommendation by the Court, (which was comprised of the usual set of Members) and though Lord Sandwich had always strenuously declared his resolution never to permit a Lawyer to have any concern with the management of *his own* Estates, yet in the present instance it was held, that the Hospital would be very happy in the opportunity of surrendering *her* Estates to the management and legal skill of Mr. Turner.

L

Mr.

* These above-mentioned Six Appointments are worth about 3,000*l.* per annum, which is more than the real expence of all the Naval Officers of Greenwich Hospital.

Mr. Turner was therefore elected Steward, to the great joy of the Hospital, and poor Tenants in the North.

Every appointment in or belonging to the Hospital, since the time Lord Sandwich presided at the Admiralty, may be traced to motives similar to those which recommended Mr. Turner. Every idea of rewarding past services is at an end, except in a few instances, where the personal interest of the party has been too strong to be resisted: it seems from numerous instances, that Lord Sandwich considers Greenwich Hospital as an appendage to his private fortune. * He ought in some manner to be made sensible, that he who pays too much attention to the solicitation of friends, in the disposal of public Offices, is weak, and perhaps incapable;—but that he who appoints *improper* persons, from motives of private interest, is criminal.

* Soon after the appointment of this New Steward, who entered into office in November, 1777, Thirty-two Deputations were made out, appointing two persons Game-keepers to each of sixteen Manors belonging to the Derwentwater Estate. There is something ridiculous in the very name of Game-keeper to an Hospital; and this was certainly the most tyrannical and unreasonable extension of the Game-laws, that has ever been known. No Game from those Estates has ever been seen within the walls of the Hospital, either before or since these deputations; nor is any expected; and so far from any Emolument, either directly or indirectly, that the expences attending these numerous deputations were actually paid for out of the Treasury of the Hospital, to enable Lord Sandwich to oblige his friends, by creating so many legal Tyrants over the Tenants of the Estates of the Hospital. This great innovation will certainly produce no good effect upon the general letting of the Derwentwater Estates, which will be in August, 1778.

P. S. The sum of 257,385*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* Bank and South Sea Stock, said in Note t pag. 10, to remain in trust, was transferred to the Corporation on or about the 15th of February, 1778.



APPENDIX.

C O M M O N S I G H T S

Generalized linear models with M-estimator based on I and II

of 1910 from the record up to "antecedent" information. Both have been extracted from the original records.

A P P E N D I X.



the 15th. (Tuesday) - A great number of people gathered at the meeting house and the streets were crowded with people. The services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Clark, and the meetings were very interesting.

Il difensore non si sente invadere la sua giurisdizione. Come ogni difensore ha diritto di difendere i suoi interessi.

radio bin, faciliò più d'uno ciò che bisognava fare, cioè trovare la strada.

C O M M I S S I O N,

The First Year of his present Majesty, the same as all the former.

AND we do hereby empower and direct you our said Commissioners, or any seven or more of you, to recommend to our Commissioners for executing the office of High Admiral now, and for the time being, or our High Admiral for the time being, to appoint, from time to time, all officers necessary to be employed in and for the said Hospital.

And we do hereby empower our Commissioners for executing the office of High Admiral, now, and for the time being, to appoint all such officers accordingly, except the Governor and Treasurer of the said Hospital, provided that for the future all such persons, to be so recommended and admitted into the said Hospital, as the Officers of the House, or otherwise †, be Seafaring men, or such who have lost their Limbs, or been otherwise disabled in the Sea Service.

And having no doubt, but that great numbers of our good subjects will be disposed, and will with cheerfulness and readiness contribute to the advancing so charitable a design; which, besides the relief of so many poor, disabled, and necessitous persons, will prove of great advantage to the Kingdom, in the increasing the Navigation and Naval Strength thereof, by encouraging fit persons to betake themselves to the Sea Service as soon as our Royal intentions in the premises shall be made known; and that their assistance in the Building and Endowing the said Hospital will be most highly acceptable to us.

And to the end that our intentions in the premises may be better known to our loving subjects, We do hereby require you to cause public notification of these presents, or the tenor or scope thereof, to be made in such places, or by such ways and means, as you shall think most conduicible to the furtherance of the said Charity.

And We do hereby, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, strictly charge, command, enjoin and require, that none of the Monies, or other things which shall be given, contributed, devised, bequeathed, designed, or appointed as aforesaid, shall be diverted, issued, or applied, or be in any wise applicable to any use or purpose whatsoever, other than the charitable purposes before mentioned, or some of them, or to defray necessary charges relating thereto, &c. &c. &c.

[There is not, in any of the Commissions, any Grant of a Power similar to that expressed in the opposite Passage of the Charter]

† These important words, which are distinguished in Italic characters, are carefully omitted, and others abridged; "provided that, for the future, all such persons, so to be recommended and admitted into the said Hospital, as officers of the House, or Otherwise".—This first otherwise is a truly valuable word.

The same spirit of correction and addition runs through the whole of the Charter, and Book of Instructions.

C H A R T E R.

ОБОГАЩЕНИЕ БОЛЫГИ СКОРОСТЬЮ И ВЪДОВОДОМЪ

The Sixteenth Year of his Present Majesty.

ОБОГАЩЕНИЕ БОЛЫГИ СКОРОСТЬЮ И ВЪДОВОДОМЪ

[The opposite recommendation of the Commissioners is totally omitted in the Charter.]

AND we do hereby authorise and empower our High Admiral, or our Commissioners for executing the office of High Admiral, now and for the time being, to appoint all Officers, necessary to be employed in and for the said Hospital, except the Governor and Treasurer of the said Hospital:

*And to displace, move, or suspend, any such Officer or Officers, for his or their misbehaviour, and to appoint any other Officer or Officers, in the room of him or them so displaced or removed; * provided that all Officers to be employed in the said Hospital be Sea-faring men, or such who have lost their limbs, or been otherwise disabled in the Sea-service.*

[All the opposite passages, in Italics, expressing the anxious care of the Founders, are totally omitted.]

[Omitted in the Charter.]

[Omitted in the Charter.]

COPY of LETTER to COMPLAINT.

And also to sell, grant, demise, exchange, alien, or dispose of the same manors, messuages, lands, rents, tenements, liberties, privileges, franchises, hereditaments, and possessions, goods, chattles, contributions, gifts and benefactions, or any of them, &c. &c.

* What a parade is here made of the power of dismissal! Not a word of which is in any of the old Commissions; and it seems to be mere parade, as all the Officers Warrants are during pleasure.

[6]

S U T R A H C

ORIGINAL LETTERS, MINUTES of the COUNCIL, DEPOSITIONS upon OATH, PETITIONS from PENSIONERS, and other authentic Documents.

THAT during Captain *Baillie's* residence in the Hospital, he had the mortification to see repeated misapplications of this Great and National Charity, without having it in his power to apply any remedy, until the 14th of April, 1771, when a most daring attempt was made on the rights of the Pensioners, which will appear by the following Letter he laid before Lord *Sandwich*, First Lord of the Admiralty; having first stated verbally every fact herein after mentioned, to Mr. *Stephens*, Secretary to the Admiralty, desiring him to lay the same before his Lordship, whose first reply was, "Sir, I thought the Hospital was on fire." Captain *Baillie* answered, "No Sir; in such case the commanding Officer would not have been the bearer of the bad news;" and that he desired his Lordship might be made acquainted with the irregularity of the proceedings of the Board of Directors, together with their Secretary. He then advised the Captain not to insist on complaining, saying he had better not; that he would advise him not, and to take care and consider well what he did; but upon the Captain's insisting positively, that the matter should come before his Lordship, he went to him, and in about a quarter of an hour returned, and told the Captain, that, if he persevered in his resolution to complain, and would wait till twelve o'clock, it being then about ten, his Lordship would see him. He waited till three, and not being able to get any audience at all, and his Lordship gone, the Captain returned to Greenwich not a little mortified. On the next day he wrote the following Letter of Complaint to Lord *Sandwich*, and carried it himself. In about two hours after his Lordship had received it, the Captain was sent for, and was told by his Lordship in general terms, that he disapproved of the conduct of the Directors and their Secretary, and that he would enquire further into the circumstances. The Captain then acquainted his Lordship of the behaviour of Mr. *Stephens* the Secretary, and hoped his Lordship would not permit him to be brow-beat and menaced, when he came with a just complaint, of a serious nature, in behalf of the Men under his care and protection. His Lordship however apologized for the Secretary's ill-judged conduct, and desired the Captain not to look upon it in that light; after which he retired, being ordered to wait. In about an hour the Captain was sent for, and was told by Mr. *Stephens*, that Lord *Sandwich* would order a General Court of the Governors and Commissioners of the Hospital, on the 23d of April, to enquire into the complaint; and Captain *Baillie* was ordered to attend the said Court.

COPY of the LETTER of COMPLAINT.

MY LORD,

April 16, 1771.

THERE being an attempt lately of a violent encroachment and irregularity in the affairs of the Hospital during the absence of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, makes me trouble your Lordship on the occasion: on Sunday the 14th instant, Mr. *Robinson*, the Clerk of the Works, came to me to desire I would give an order to move three or four Pensioners from the Royal-George and Victory Wards, for the accommodation of Mr. *Ibbetson* the Secretary, agreeable to an order from the Board of Directors; to which I objected, and told him, that during the absence of the Governors I could not comply, without seeing the Minutes of the Board. Instead of the Minutes, the Clerk returned with the following Letter from Mr. *Ibbetson* the Secretary.

SIR,

SIR,

THE Board of Directors having come to a resolution, that some additional accommodation should be made to my Apartment, by taking off part of the Royal-George and Victory Wards, for which purpose it will be necessary to move for a few days only a Pensioner or two in the former, and six Pensioners entirely from the latter, I am to desire that you will give any directions that may depend upon you, as acting in the absence of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, for the removal of the said Men; which will oblige, Sir,

April the 14th, 1771.

To Captain Baillie.

Your most humble Servant,

JOHN IBBETSON.

(A Copy.)

IMMEDIATELY thereupon I attended Mr. Robinson to the above wards; and, contrary to the request of the letter, instead of moving a Pensioner or two from one ward for a few days only, and six from the other, I found, to my surprize, that they proposed taking down three oak cabins in the Royal George, and eight oak-cabins in the Victory. This having appeared to me a proposal so extraordinary, I declared that I would not comply without seeing the minute or order of the Board, but that I would go to Mr. Ibbetson and examine into the circumstances. I had scarce time to address myself to him, before he hastily exclaimed I was flying in the face of the Directors of the Hospital; tho' I only desired to see the minutes of the Board, as my justification for a thing so unusual; which however he promised I should that evening, or in the morning. Notwithstanding all my endeavours to persuade him to put off the matter for a few days, till the meeting of the Directors, that they might mark where the partitions were to run, and give their own sanction more particularly in it, he still more impatiently urged the execution of his project, and insisted on the immediate removal of the above Pensioners, tho' no other provision was made for their reception elsewhere.

On Monday the following day, at six o'clock in the morning, the Regulating Boatswain acquainted me that eleven cabins were torn down, and the men turned out by working carpenters and the Clerk of the Works' Clerk; on which I immediately repaired to the above Wards, and was quickly addressed by the Men with heavy complaints of their births being pulled about their ears at so unseasonable a time, and without the least warning to move their little effects. In order to prevent the murmurs of the Men, I promised to see them equally well accommodated in other Wards.

Upon enquiry into Mr. Ibbetson's and the Clerk's precipitate conduct, I found they had apply'd afterwards to Captain Clements for his sanction, as being the senior Captain; though it is notorious, that that Gentleman's infirmities have rendered him incapable of duty some years; and this Mr. Ibbetson was so conscious of, that I refer to the words of his own Letter, and to Captain Clements's Letter to me on the departure of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, of which the following is a Copy.

DEAR SIR,

Greenwich Hospital, April the 5th, 1771.

AS my infirmity is such, as renders me unfit for Public Affairs; should esteem it a favour, you will officiate for

Your very humble servant,

To Captain Baillie.

R. CLEMENTS.

(A Copy)

HOWEVER, though this Gentleman's infirmities were so well known to the whole Hospital, and particularly to those two Gentlemen; yet they, taking advantage of his ease and infirmity, and misunderstanding their object, propose his consent as their justification; though Captain Clements, on having the affair explained in its proper light, is greatly alarmed, and entirely disavows his consent or knowledge of any part of the transaction, as appears by the following Letter:

SIR,

SIR,

April 15, 1771, Royal Hospital.

I absolutely disavow giving my orders for demolishing the ten or eleven Cabins in the Royal George and Victory Wards; which I find the Clerk of the Works has done this morning at five o'clock, by collusion, to lay into the Secretary's apartment. I therefore beg you would inspect into it, as I know nothing of signing any such order.

I am, Sir,

To Captain Baillie.

Your very humble servant,

R. CLEMENTS.

ON the whole of the above, I must beg leave to inform your Lordship, that I am ready to refer and submit the Case to your Lordship's decision, or to appear before the Board to authenticate the facts, which ever may be most agreeable to your Lordship, so that I may be exonerated from any future blame on further examination. I must beg leave also to remark to your Lordship, that the numbers of Pensioners have increased near one third within these few years; which would naturally make a zealous Officer of the House cautious of destroying the Wards of the Pensioners, without the firmest authority: I must also take the liberty to add, that almost an entire Ward, the Royal Sovereign of forty Cabins, was destroyed, to make an apartment for the Secretary's Clerk; and the present Secretary has already the most spacious apartment of any Officer in the House (the Governor only excepted). I am, my Lord,

To the Right Honourable

Your Lordship's

the Earl of Sandwich,

Most faithful Servant,

April the 16th, 1771.

THOMAS BAILLIE,

(Captain in the said Hospital.)

AS the above Letter was given to Mr. *Ibbetson* by his Lordship, near eight days before the meeting of the General Court; he, by the assistance of the Gentlemen of the Direction, who had so ingeniously planned the destruction of two capital Wards, were all that time commenting upon, and endeavouring to defend their cause, and obviate the plain matters of fact therein contained. Captain Baillie therefore thought proper to write to the General Court the following Letter, the better to explain the enormity of such proceedings.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

April the 23d, 1771.

IT would give me the utmost pain to see so respectable a Body, assembled on my representation of some late transactions of the Hospital, were they to seem trifling or unworthy your notice; or were I to appear in any other light, than as zealous for the good of the establishment, having no earthly view, but to offer up my best endeavours, as in duty bound, for its service.

I must then beg leave further to represent, that, if the proposed plan for enlarging Mr. *Ibbetson*'s apartments, by encroaching on the Royal-George and Victory Wards, be put in execution, the most fatal consequences may be dreaded; as it will of course cut off all communication with those Wards from the Great Stair-Cafe leading to his apartment, which is the grand and principal entrance into them; through the great Gallery lately enlarged and inclosed for his sole use and convenience: so that, in case of any accident from fire, it would be impossible to get an engine of any size up the common Stair-Cafe, where the Men pass, it being but three feet broad, and very dangerous and difficult of ascent; which difficulty would still increase, by the torrent of people pressing downwards. An instance of this happened some years ago, where I attended at the time the Boys' Ward was on fire: when we brought the engines, we were stopped on the Stair-Cafe by a multitude of affrighted Men, Nurses, and Boys, flying the danger, though there was another Stair Case. This warning makes me earnest to represent to you, my Lords and Gentlemen, the dreadful and fatal consequences that may ensue, by stopping up the great avenues leading to the Capital Wards. The abovementioned Gallery, which did belong to the community, is seventy feet long by above ten feet broad, completely fitted up, with convenient presses,

premises, &c. &c. the whole inclosed for Mr Ibbetson's sole use and convenience; where neither Officer, Pensioner, or Stranger, can pass to view the Wards, but are shewn to the narrow Stair-Case, which is eas'd with wood, is dirty and unseemly, and not at all corresponding with the grandeur and dignity of the Building. Mr. Ibbetson has, beside, a more spacious and sumptuous apartment than any Officer in the Hospital, (the Governor only excepted); and there is a room in the Painted Hall to keep the books and records of the Hospital.

I shall beg leave to add, that, to save appearances, they have again put up three Cabins out of the eleven destroy'd lately; but they are jammed closer together, and across the end of the Wards, where no Cabin was ever thought of being placed before; and they are putting up two more in like manner. By this change the Royal George will be shortened 21 feet, one window entirely cut off, and another defaced about the middle, with a Cabin fixed against it, to apologize for its front and light; the Victory Ward will have one window intirely cut off, the light and air of another greatly impeded, and will be shortened 28 feet; so that the Chimney, which was originally in the middle, will be near the end; and some of the remaining Cabins, which were before light and airy, will be in almost utter darkness. Upon the whole, as these alterations interfere with the symmetry, beauty and convenience, of so grand and national a Building, and may one time be the total destruction of it; and as the sole view of the alterations is enlarging the Apartments of the Secretary, already very spacious and magnificent, I thought it my indispenable duty to lay the matter clearly before the General Court, that they may be furnished with the proper materials to decide upon the premises.

I have brought with me the model of the Hospital, to explain, and convince, by ocular demonstration, any Gentleman that may be doubtful, of the preposterous enormity of blocking up the public passages, and impeding the circulation of free air. In short, the plain question is, whether Eleven faithful Old Servants of Prince and State, be turned out, for the accommodation of Mr. IBBETSON's Three Footmen: The Eleven Pensioners who were so inhumanly turned out before Six o'Clock in the Morning, are in waiting, with their Boatswains, to authenticate the facts, if called upon. I have the honour of being, my Lords and Gentlemen,

To the Governors and Commissioners
of his Majesty's Royal Hospital
for Seamen, at Greenwich.

Your most faithful, and
Obedient humble Servant,
THOMAS BAILLIE,
(Captain in said Hospital)

EDWARD THOMAS BAILLIE

CAPTAIN BAILLIE waited all this day at the Admiralty, where the General Courts are held, with the model of the Hospital; and though he sent in word to Lord Sandwich, and to Mr. Stephens, the Secretary, that he was in waiting, he was never called for, or admitted into their presence; nor should he have known how the matter was decided that day, but that he heard some of the Admiralty Clerks say, the Eleven Cabins were ordered to be put up again, and to be restored to the Pensioners. Captain Baillie waited above an hour after the Court rose, expecting some official answer to his letter; but having heard nothing about it during that time, he sent in his compliments to Lord Sandwich and Mr. Stephens, to know if they had any commands for him; and the answer brought him was, No, Sir. However, Captain Baillie now thought it full time to order a number of Pensioners home, (some waiting as witnesses to authenticate the facts if called upon, many others out of curiosity) telling them their Births were ordered to be restored, and that the Lords would not admit of any encroachments: This he told them in order that they might not discover the mortification he had met with; for he clearly saw he had been thought officious and meddling, and that his Lordship secretly countenanced the indirect proceedings of the Board of Directors, though he could not avow it publicly. It will appear by the following letters from the Governor of the Hospital, that whilst Captain Baillie was brow-beat for complaining, his conduct was arraigned by the Governor for suffering such proceedings.

(130 A)

SIR,

SIR,

Bath, April 25, 1771.

I AM sorry to find there have been some Alterations in the Hospital since I left it, which I think you should have acquainted me of, as I wrote you I could not go up but at the greatest risque. Any alterations, I have been told, lay with the Governor; but that I suppose Lord Sandwich and a General Court will settle, as I am informed there is to be a General Court held upon it. Is it not pretty such things should happen, and the Governor know nothing of the matter, but what he hears by chance from others? I desire to know what is done, and that you will always acquaint me, for the future, when any such innovation is done, or intended to be done. If the Gentlemen in the Direction have a right to make alterations, they are certainly right; if not, they must excuse my not allowing it; at least the Governor's consent should have been asked, and it would only be civil in the Gentlemen, as I have always been so to them: However, as I am in such a bad state of health, I cannot go up to see into these matters. Our compliments to Mrs. Baillie. Adieu.

Yours,

(A Copy)

F. HOLBURNE.

N. B. It will appear by the following Letter from Admiral Holburne, which is dated the next day, that Captain Baillie did not omit his duty to the Governor; but the attempt being as sudden as it was irregular, Captain Baillie's Letter, stating the whole Transaction, was not received by the Governor quite so soon as he expected.

SIR,

Bath, April 26, 1771.

I CANNOT help taking the first opportunity of approving of your Conduct in this affair. I own, I was surprized at your not letting me know it before, as I heard it from another; I wonder at the Gentlemen coming into such a scheme without acquainting me. You will see the orders given, punctually complied with, and you will take care that such things are never attempted; but agreeable to the minute lately made at the Admiralty, and no Encroachments of any kind. I want none for myself, nor shall any, with my consent, in the Hospital. It was very unmannerly to do such a thing the moment my back was turned. I do not know when I can return; it's not out of choice I stay here, I assure you; a fever and cold hanging upon me has prevented my drinking the waters most part of the time I have been here. Our compliments attend you, Mrs. and Miss Baillie.

I am, Sir,

To Captain Baillie, at the

Royal Hospital, Greenwich.

Your most obedient Servant,

(A Copy)

F. HOLBURNE.

DEAR BAILLIE,

Saturday.

YOU have acted extremely well, and with the entire approbation of Lord Sandwich; he has kept me longer in town, that I may be at the General Court. It will be necessary that old Mr. Maule attends in person, as several questions will be ask'd him; and Lord Sandwich has desired me to give him intimation thereof, which I beg you will do in my name, with my compliments to him and his family.

Lady Rodney joins with me in our best respects to Mrs. and Miss Baillie, and be assured,

I am, dear Sir,

Your faithful Friend,

And most obedient humble Servant,

G. B. RODNEY.

2. Keep a good look-out, that the Pen-and-ink Men do not encroach on the Rights of those for whom the Hospital was intended, the Officers and Seamen who have faithfully served their King and Country; in that cause you must always be supported.

To Captain Thomas Baillie, at the Royal Hospital, Greenwich.

(A Copy)

May

~~Offals to the soldiers now called upon us much as usual.~~
May it please your Honour,

I HUMBLY make bold to acquaint you of an affair that is transacted in the Cook Room, in the House of Greenwich: there is a great complaint among the people of having poor Meat, and little Pieces; well they might, when there is such Embezzlement made every time the Meat is brought and cut up by the Butcher. As your Honour is always ready to put things on a proper footing, when it comes to your knowledge, and in your power; now, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, when the Meat is cut up and put in the copper, if your Honour, or that worthy Gentleman Lieutenant *Car*, was to order the Lockers in the Cook-room to be search'd, there would be Meat found secreted; also, that the Butcher most days carries away with him upwards of Thirty Pounds of Meat, which he says is Overplus Meat, when there is seldom above Three or Four Pounds over. This I know to be true, and by your Honour's looking into it, will gain the prayers of many Hundreds of poor Men, also,

Your most humble servant,

To Captain Baillie.

UNKNOWN.

GENTLEMEN,

Royal Hospital, Greenwich, September 19, 1772.

HAVING received the above anonymous Letter, complaining that the Meat of the Pensioners was poor, and the Pieces little, and pointing out repeated Frauds in the Cook-room; in consequence thereof, my best endeavours have not been wanting to prove the truth or fallacy of the said information; and to bear testimony of my conduct, I got Captain *Allwright* and Lieutenant *Kerr* to accompany me to the Kitchen, where we found concealed and hid away in cloths Fifty Seven Pounds of the best Meat, the property of the Hospital, the greater part of which was claimed by *Emanuel Tucker*, Butcher, as Surplus Meat, the property of his Master, the Contractor; upon which, as there was no Surplus exceeding a pound or two, as appeared by the evidence of the Steward and his Clerk, the Meat having been previously weighed by them, in the presence of *Emanuel Tucker*, the Butcher, who brought and delivered the said Meat; I then took him before Mr. Justice *Brett*: and I here annex copies of the depositions taken before that Gentleman, that the Board may be enabled to judge what remains to be done; and I hope they will not only justify, but indemnify us the said Officers, being bound over to prosecute the said *Emanuel Tucker*, Butcher, at the next quarter-sessions, at *Maidstone*; and I hope the Board will order the said prosecution to be carried on effectually, to put a stop to such iniquitous practices in future, which I must say have been extended to a great degree against our poor Pensioners, many of whom are very respectable Men, who have seen better days, and who expect on this occasion to be protected and redressed.

When we carried the Butcher and the stolen Beef before Mr. Justice *Brett*, who was at the Work-house, where a Bench of Justices were sitting, that Gentleman very justly observed, that the Hospital Beef was of an inferior kind to the Work-house Beef, and upon comparison before several Gentlemen it appeared so; which corroborates the general received opinion of its being the flesh of Bulls, or Bull Stags, and consequently not agreeable to contract.

Having found out the anonymous informant, one *Jonathan Fell*, Pensioner, and a Blue-Frock Man, that is, an attendant in the Kitchen and Dining-hall, he has since deposed before Mr. Justice *Brett*, that *Emanuel Tucker*, the Butcher, did alio, on the 7th Instant, carry away with him out of the Hospital, in a felonious manner, upwards of Twenty Pounds of Beef, not any surplus, but that weighed for the use of the Pensioners of the Hospital; and that under colour of Surplus Meat he had been robbing the Hospital for years.

I beg leave to mention, that the Bread, as well as the Meat, has of late been greatly inferior to what it used to be; and having sent for the Baker, to know the cause, he informed me that he happened to have a musty batch of Flour by him, but that it would soon be out.

The Captain and Lieutenant of the Week have also often complained that the Beer was thick, sour, and stinking; and the same was afterwards laid before the Council, where Captain *Maplesden* declared before the face of the Brewer, that the said sour, stinking Beer was again turned on for the use of the Pensioners, the moment his back was turned, which was but just before turned off by his order.—Note, the Beer is led, by a subterranean pipe, from the Brew-house to the Dining-hall.

All these hardships accumulating on the Pensioners, I am humbly of opinion, is the reason that so small a quantity of Meat as Eight Hundred Pounds, being the allowance for Eight Hundred

Hundred Men on a Meat Day, is issued upon an average for the whole complement of the Hospital, including Men, Nurses and Boys, amounting to more than Two Thousand Two Hundred; the greater part, by far, preferring the Money-list and Butlers to the House-allowance, which if it was good in kind, these lists would not be so enormously swelled: but the fact is, they do not find their account in dining in the Public Hall; and Money in lieu of Provisions is destructive both to the health and morals of the Pensioners; besides, it lessens the appearance of the magnificence and grandeur of the Charity, and the few who dine in the Hall are prey'd upon by all the rest who boil no Meat in the copper.

I beg leave now to assure you, Gentlemen, that it is with the utmost concern I find myself constrained to lay this disagreeable Representation of Facts before the Board, for their serious consideration, to apply a Remedy, hoping at the same time, they will be candid enough to think I have no other view in doing it than to offer up my poor endeavours for the common good of the Hospital; and I trust, that through the impartiality of the Board, every species of Fraud will be extirpated from this Royal and National Charity.

If the Board should think there is the smallest aggravation of the above facts, I have a number of credible witnesses now in waiting for their further information, exclusive of *Jonathan Fell*, (the Author of the Anonymous Letter) who conveyed the sentiments of many Hundred Pensioners; and I am very well informed, that the Nurses of the Boys, in order to content their hungry stomachs, are obliged to contribute their mite, in money, almost every week, to compensate for the bad quality and deficiency of their allowance; and I beg all their Nurses who are in waiting, may be sent for and examined upon this complaint, the Boys being, as we are told, entirely under the care and protection of the Board. I have the honour of being, Gentlemen, with great respect,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

THOMAS BAILLIE.

P. S. I inclose copies of the depositions taken before Mr. Justice Brett.

To the Directors of His Majesty's Royal Hospital for Seamen, at Greenwich.

Upon the appointment of one of the Young Chaplains of the Hospital to a Directorship of the said Hospital, Captain Baillie, not being able to get an audience of Lord Sandwich, wrote to him a Letter, of which the following is a copy.

MY LORD,

August 11, 1773.

THOUGH I should rejoice in general on the promotion, or good fortune of your Lordship's Friends, yet I cannot refrain from expressing to your Lordship my uneasiness on the late promotion of an inferior Officer of the House to the Directorship, a young Chaplain, a New-comer, and entirely unacquainted with the Establishment.

As a Directorship was not my principal point of view, I did not think it proper to sollicit your Lordship particularly for it; yet I should have received it with gratitude, as a mark of your favour and good intention towards me. In that light it would have been considered both by my friends, and the enemies my zeal for the good of the Establishment has raised against me, the latter of whom are but too much disposed to sneer and insult upon appearances, especially as your Lordship and every one knows, my Predecessor Captain Smith was a Director of Greenwich Hospital.

As the precedence given to this young Man will certainly be construed to my disadvantage, and will of course encourage the ill-disposed to thwart and dispute my authority, I must again beg leave to represent to your Lordship how I feel myself hurt on the occasion, and entreat your Lordship will so dispose of me that I may be enabled to do my duty with propriety and pleasure, or else to make some other provision for me, which shall seem meet to your Lordship from my long and faithful service.

I am, my Lord,

To the Right Honourable the
Earl of Sandwich.

Your Lordship's most obedient,

And most humble Servant,

(A Copy)

THOMAS BAILLIE.

[II]

In answer thereto, Captain Baillie received a Letter from his Lordship, of which the following is a copy.

SIR,

YOUR Letter, which I have just received, surprizes me beyond measure, and therefore cannot avoid telling you that I believe the Board of Admiralty have never had any thoughts of appointing you a Director of Greenwich Hospital. This day a warrant was signed to fill another vacancy, since Mr. Cooke's nomination; and probably, when a farther vacancy happens, you may not be pitched upon to fill it. I shall not at this time enter any farther into this subject, and am,

August 11, 1773.

(A Copy)

Your very humble Servant,

S A N D W I C H.

[It is to be remarked, that the following Minutes were all penned by the Steward's Clerks, who act as Deputies to the Clerk of the Council, and whose interest it is to favour, as much as possible, what is called the CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT; and also, that Captain Baillie, now Lieutenant Governor, is attempting a reform in the affairs of the Hospital.]

At a Council, the 18th of March, 1774,

P R E S E N T

Lieutenant Governor BAILLIE,

Captain MAPLESDEN
Lieutenant GORDON
Lieutenant LEFEBERE
Lieutenant SMITH
Rev. Mr. MAULE

Captain ALLWRIGHT
Lieutenant KERR
Lieutenant NEVILLE
Rev. Mr. COOKE,

COMPLAINT having been made to the Lieutenant Governor, by the Captain and Lieutenant of the Week, that a great surplus of the Pensioners Broth remained every day in the Kitchen after the tables were served, part of which was given to the Poor at the gate, and the remainder put into a hog-tub, with the washings of the copper, and disposed of by the Cook; and that there is scarce any Fat upon the Broth served to the tables, but that it remains in the bottom of the copper, and is afterwards washed into a tub, and when cold, skimm'd off, and carried into the Cook's cellar, for his private use: And, upon a strict enquiry being made therein, this day, by the Council, it appeared by the evidence of James Webb, one of the Cook's Mate's Deputies, Boatswain Pinn, Joseph Webster, Edward Pratt, and William Yearley, who have been employed in the Kitchen, that it has been the practice, after the Pensioners have been served, to give two or three pails-full of Broth to the Poor at the gate, and the remainder, amounting to forty or fifty gallons, being the allowance for 320 Men, have been put into a wash-tub, with the washing of the copper, and delivered early in the morning to persons who have bought it to feed hogs; and that the Fat, which the Pensioners complain for want of, is usually left at the bottom of the copper, occasioned by the ladle being too small, which takes up the Broth, the Fat of which swimming over the top, remains behind, and is carried away with the washings of the copper, and when cold in the tub is skinned off, to the amount of almost a pail-full each meat day; which, together with the drippings from the roast meat, is collected and carried into the Cook's cellar. The Boatswains and Nurses of the Council and Edinburgh Wards,* also declared, that the Pensioners have very little more than half their allowance of Broth; and that it is very poor, and has seldom any Fat upon it; and upon the Mess-Ladle being produced, it appeared to be too small, by near a pint, to serve the proper allowance for four men. The Table-men also said, that they had been accused by the Pensioners of skimming the Fat off the Broth. The Cook being then called in, acknowledged that he had Three Guineas a year for the washings of the copper, to feed hogs with; that the Fat was stirred up in serving the Broth: and the reason of so great a surplus of Broth was, by the Labourers, Table-men, and Helpers, who are Pensioners on the Money-List, being indulged

R 2

* These are helpless Wards, where the Provisions are carried to the Pensioners.

with three pints a day, each Man, and who sometimes omitted to come for it. The Council, after taking the matter into consideration, are unanimously of opinion, that the Fat of the Broth has not been served to the Pensioners; and that the washings of the copper, which is put into a hog-tub, is only a pretext for making a great surplus of Broth, thereby impoverishing it; and that the Labourers, who have Nine-pence a day extra, and on the Money-List, have no right to Broth; that no more should be made than is necessary to serve the tables; that the Fat of the Broth would be more equally served by having it skimmed off into pails, and issued proportionally to each mess, as is the custom in the Royal Navy; and that Ladles of full two quarts, one quart, and a pint, be made for serving their full allowance. And to prevent any imposition, or the Fat of the Broth, or Dripping of the Roast Meat, for the Boatswains and Boys, being taken away in future, It is hereby ordered, That the Cook do take particular care that no more Broth be made than is necessary to serve the tables, with the allowance of a pint each Man a day; and the same to the Table-men and Helpers, who attend the Pensioners at dinner.

That the Fat of the Broth be skimmed off, and put into pails, and served out proportionally to each mess, according to the custom in His Majesty's Navy.

That care be taken that no Fat may remain after the tables are served; and that the small pieces of Meat at the bottom of the copper be collected together to mend the mess pieces.

That whatever surplus of Broth may remain, after the Pensioners, Table-men, and Helpers are served, shall immediately be given to the Poor at the gate.

That the washings of the copper be thrown away, that no pretext may be made for having a great surplus of Broth to be mixed therewith, and sold to feed hogs.

That the Pease be issued as usual, and the Gravy of the Pork on Festival-days be mixed with a just proportion of Fat with the Pease, to make the Soup for the Pensioners as good as possible.

That the Cook do not presume to take the Dripping of the Meat which is roasted for the Boatswains or Charity-boys, but to serve it up with the Gravy in the mess dishes.

That the Boatswains, Boatswains Mates, Table-men and private Pensioners, two of each, who are ordered by rotation to do duty in the Kitchen, do not quit their station from the time the Meat is weighed until the surplus of Broth be given to the Poor, and the washings of the copper thrown away; nor hire a substitute, without permission of the Captain or Lieutenant of the week, upon pain of being severely punished.

(A Copy)

At a Council held in the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich, the 4th of April, 1774,

P R E S E N T,

Lieutenant Governor BAILIE.

Lieutenant GORDON.

Captain MAPLESDEN.

Lieutenant BESSEN.

Lieutenant MOYLE.

Lieutenant LEEFEBRE.

Lieutenant KERR.

Lieutenant NEVILLE.

Lieutenant SMITH.

Rev. Mr. COOKE.

Rev. Mr. MAULE.

Dr. HOSSACK.

Rev. Mr. MAULE.

THE Cook of the Infirmary having represented to the Dispenser, that the Veal provided for the Sick on Sunday last was very bad; and Mr. Pocock having inspected the same, was of that opinion, and ordered it to be carried to the Physician, who finding it unfit for the Pensioners to eat, ordered it to be returned to the Butcher, who refused to take it back, saying in justification of himself, That it had been received by Mr. Court,* the Clerk of the Cheque's Clerk, and Mr. Hambly, one of the Steward's Clerks. It was therefore left in the Kitchen; which the Lieutenant Governor being made acquainted with, came into the Kitchen, and seeing the Veal very bad, and unfit for Men to eat, called in Captain Maplesden and Lieutenant Gordon, the Officers of the week, (agreeable to the words of the contract) to inspect into the same, who declared it not eatable. Lieutenant Kerr, Lieutenant Smith, the Rev. Mr. Cooke, and the Rev. Mr. Maule, being then in the Square, were all called in, who declared it, as their opinion, that it was very bad, and unfit for the Pensioners. The Lieutenant Governor, in consequence thereof,

* Mr. Court is a Freeholder of Huntingdonshire.

thereof, gave it into the charge of the Cook, with orders to keep it safe, that it might be produced this day in Council; and afterwards sent Boatswain Tyrrel to acquaint him that a Council would be summoned to meet at ten o'clock the next morning, at which time he should produce the Meat; but the Cook not producing the Meat, according to order, was sent for in to know the reason of it, when he gave for answer, that the Contractor's man came for it, and told him that he was going to the Council with it, but instead of that, had carried it secretly away. The Council were therefore unanimously of opinion, that the Butcher had very much imposed upon the Hospital, by sending such bad Meat; and that the Clerks did not do their duty in receiving it; and beg leave to lay this Copy of the Minute before the Board of Directors, that they may be pleased to give such directions as may be thought necessary to prevent the like impositions in future.

By order of the Council,

DANIEL BALL, Clerk.

N. B. No Answer was received from the Board of Directors.

(A Copy)

At a Council held in the Royal Hospital for Seamen, at Greenwich, the 8th of April, 1774.

P R E S E N T,

Lieutenant Governor BAILLIE

Captain MAPLESDEN
Lieutenant GORDON
Lieutenant BESSON
Lieutenant LEFEBERE
Lieutenant SMITH

Captain ALLWRIGHT
Lieutenant MOYLE
Lieutenant KERR
Lieutenant NEVILLE
Rev. Mr. COOKE.

THE Lieutenant Governor acquainted the Council, that Mr. Mellish, the Contractor for Butchers Meat for the Hospital, said, in excuse for himself, before the Board of Directors last Wednesday, at *Salters-Hall*, for having delivered Veal on Sunday last, for the Sick in the Infirmary, which was complained of in the Minute of Council laid before the Directors at their last meeting, that the Veal was very good, but small, and that he was ordered by Mr. Taylor, the Surgeon, to send small Veal for the sick. Mr. Taylor being this day sent for by the Council, and asked whether he gave such orders to the Butcher, or his people, answered, That he never gave such orders, either directly or indirectly; and that, to the best of his knowledge, he never saw either the Contractor, or any of his people. Mr. Taylor being likewise asked whether he saw the Veal complained of that day, answered, he did; and being asked his opinion of the quality of it, said, It appeared extremely indifferent, the colour not good, very bony, the skin full of air, the flesh flabby and loose, and in no degree marketable. And Mr. Pocock, being asked his opinion of it, said, It appeared to him to be in a state of putrefaction; and confirmed Mr. Taylor's opinion of the Meat. Mr. Thomas, the Surgeon's Assistant, being likewise asked, whether he gave any orders to the Butcher or his Servant to bring small Veal, said he never did.

The Contractor having denied, before the Board of Directors, that part of the Council Minute, which set forth that his servant refused to take back the Veal, James Webb, the Cook's Mate's Assistant, was sent for by the Council; and being asked whether the Butcher's servant did, or did not, refuse to take the said Veal away, answered, that he did refuse it, notwithstanding he begg'd and entreated him to take it away; but left it in the Kitchen, where it lay 'till the Lieutenant Governor ordered the Cook to take charge of it. And he says, that he heard the Boatswain tell the Cook to bring it before the Council the next day. And he further saith, that he is ready and willing to make oath of the above, if required. Mr. Hardcastle, the Cook's Mate, also declared, that he was ready to make oath that the Butcher's servant refused to take the said Veal away. And John Brown, a Helper in the Kitchen, said, he was ready to make oath to the truth of the above, if required.

The Council therefore, after so public a complaint, are unanimously of opinion, that they had a right to inspect into the quality of the Meat, at Council: And the Lieutenant Governor says, he would have called a Council immediately, for that purpose, but it being Sunday morning, and the people just going to Chapel, therefore was under the necessity of postponing it till the next morning.

Resolved,

Resolved, that a Copy of the Minute be laid before the Board of Directors, for their further information in this affair.

DANIEL BALL.

N. B. No Answer from the Board of Directors.

(A Copy)

ROYAL HOSPITAL, GREENWICH, September 8, 1774.

A COPY of the DECLARATIONS made by several Pensioners, who have formerly been employed in the Brewhouse, upon their examination before Captain Allwright and Lieutenant Kerr, touching the bad quality of the Small Beer, lately brewed for the service of the Pensioners.

JOHN STRAKE declares, that he is ready to make oath, that being by accident locked in the Brewhouse, he saw *Pope* and *Austin*, the two Labourers, about three months since, between five and six o'clock in the morning, draw from the two first runs of the Small Beer, brewed for the use of the Pensioners, a Cask, which he believes contained about a Hogshead; that after filling it, they rolled it into the middle room; and about a week after, he assisted the said Labourers, together with *Murray* and *Goodridge*, the two Extra-Labourers, in putting it down a Trap-hatch into the Engine Room: That he also has assisted, at four different times, the said people, in putting the like sized Cask down the said Trap-hatch; twice in the former Brewer's time, and twice in the present; and that one of the former was drank out clandestinely by the Artificers employed in the Brewhouse.

John Strake further declares, that there used to be kept in a little Store-Room, from two to six Casks at a time, containing about nine gallons each, of which the people in general, at work in the Brewhouse, used to have given them by *Pope*, who kept the keys; that from its being always very new, and strong, he verily believes it was of the same quality of that which he saw drawn out of the tun into the great Cask.

Cornelius Colson says, that he is willing to make oath, if required, that, at the time he was employed in the Brewhouse, about five years since, between one and two in the morning, he saw *Pope* and *Austin* carry, with a pair of slings, a Cask, containing about half a barrel, out of the Brewhouse, down Stocks-Lane.

Alexander Frazier says, he is ready to make oath, if required, that he, about nine years ago, at day-break in the morning, assisted *Pope*, with a pair of slings, to carry away from the Brewhouse, to the said *Pope's* house, a Cask, containing about eighteen gallons. He also declares, that *Austin*, the other Labourer, was ill at that time, and could not attend his duty in the Brewhouse.

Anthony Goodridge declares, that he is ready to make oath, that he has seen Casks in the small Store-Room, between the two vats; that he never knew any person keep the key of it, except *Pope*, nor ever knew any mops or brooms kept there; that *Pope*, when he went therein, generally pulled the door after him; that during the term of six years, he was employed as an Extra-Labourer, neither himself, nor any other Extra-Labourer, were ever suffered to assist in taking off a Guile of Ale, but always were called upon, and assisted, in taking off the Guiles of Small Beer.

N. B. *Pope* still remains Assistant to the Brewer.

(A Copy)

Royal Hospital at Greenwich, 4th of October, 1774.

ALEXANDER BUCHANAN, Pensioner, declares to Captain *Allwright*, that he is ready to make oath, that a little past two o'clock in the morning of the 24th of March last, Greenwich church clock struck two as he came through a place called the *Straits Mouth*, being on his return home to the Hospital from *Randal's* lower yard. As he passed without the rails, between the Infirmary and the Brewhouse of the said Hospital, he saw part of the Great Gate of the Brewhouse open; a man came out with a light in a lanthorn, who was followed by two men in white dresses, bearing a Cask hanging by a pair of Can-Hooks, and by their step he is sure the Cask was heavy; he saw them carry it round the corner of the King's-Arms Public House, down to the Dock, where they put it into a boat, and when they had so done, heard one of those men say

say to the others, It's now past two o'clock, drawing on for three; we must make haste, having, he said, either one or two turns more to make; which, he is not positive.

(A Copy.)

N. B. On laying these complaints before the Governor, he threw cold water on the complaints, by observing, that if any enquiry was made, the Brewer would retort on some of the Officers, who received Ale from him; therefore the enquiry was suppress'd.

At a Council held in the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich, the 10th of February, 1775,

P R E S E N T,

Lieutenant Governor BAILLIE

Captain ALLWRIGHT

Captain LYNN

Lieutenant KERR

Lieutenant ANSELL

Rev. Mr. MAULE

ROBERT DICKEY, the Turncock, was complained of by Captain Allwright, for disrespectful and insolent behaviour to him, on Sunday the 5th instant, when the Cellars and Kitchens, &c. of the apartments were overflowed by the Tide: and, upon examination, it appeared, that the Lieutenant Governor had been informed, that there was no Plug in the Cook's Mate's apartment for near a fortnight past; which occasioned the water flowing from thence into other apartments; and desired Captain Allwright, who was the Captain for the Week, to give directions, that the Sink in the said apartment might be secured for the present with a wooden Plug; in consequence of which, Captain Allwright sent for the Turncock, and directed him to get it secured; and, it appearing by the evidence of James Wherry, William Leodbetter, and Alexander Connell, three Firemen, who were attending with their Men at the Engines, that the said Robert Dickey behaved in a disrespectful manner to Captain Allwright; that upon his telling him to go about his business, and not behave in that manner to him, instead of going as he was ordered, he followed him; upon which Captain Allwright said, "that if he did not go about his business, he would thresh him;" when the said Dickey repeatedly answered, "You dare not;" and when ask'd by the Council, what he had to say for himself, or if he had any Witnesses, answered, he had none; but said, "that he did not behave in a disrespectful manner to Captain Allwright: that he had "no more business with the Works that day, than he had now to appear before the Council:" Captain Allwright then withdrew; and the Council, after taking the same into consideration, were of opinion, that he is a servant to the Hospital (agreeable to the orders for the regulating and better government of the Pensioners and Servants) and that he has behaved in an insolent and disrespectful manner to Captain Allwright, and contemptuously to the Council; therefore the said Robert Dickey is hereby ordered to ask pardon publicly, for the said offences, on the elevated place in both Dining-halls to-morrow, and to be mulcted twenty shillings to the Charity, out of his wages.

By order of the Council,

DANIEL BALL.

(A Copy.)

[This kind of behaviour, which is totally subversive of all order and government, is the natural consequence of the opinion, which the Servants of the Hospital have conceived, that the Council of Officers have no power.—This very mild sentence Dickey had the impudence to refuse submitting to; but, as the Officers found that he was supported somewhere, they were obliged to accept of a very mutilated performance, in order to preserve the appearance of authority.]

At a Council the 3d of March, 1775, were present at the
P R E S E N T,

Lieutenant Governor BAILLIE.

Captain ALLWRIGHT

Captain LYNN

Lieutenant KERR

Lieutenant SMITH

Lieutenant ANSELL

Rev. Mr. MAULE

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

MY LORDS,

BEING this day assembled in Council, by virtue of that authority given us by your Lordships, and in compliance with the orders for the regulating, and better government of the Pensioners and Servants in his Majesty's Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich; we convened before us Robert Dickey, Turncock and Labourer in the said Hospital, to answer to a charge alledged against him by Captain Allwright, the Captain upon duty, for behaving to him in a very disrespectful, insulting, and provoking manner: and whereas it having appeared to us, that he was guilty of the same, and he having behaved in a contemptuous manner to the Council, by saying that he had no more business to attend the Works on the day when he was complain'd of, (being Sunday) than he had to appear before us; and at the same time by threatening Captain Allwright with a prosecution, in our presence: Authorised, as we suppose, by your Lordships, to take cognizance of all misdemeanors committed by Pensioners, and Servants of the Hospital, and agreeable to the standing Instructions, we sentenced him to be mulcted twenty shillings out of his yearly wages, and to ask pardon in the Public Hall, on account of his ill behaviour to the Captain of the Week in the execution of his Office, and for the contempt shewn to the Council. With this sentence he has refused to comply. We therefore have, agreeable to our Commission, made this appeal to your Lordships, to inforce the authority delegated to us, and to enable us to put in execution those Laws, which were made for the regulation and good government of the Hospital, and without which it is impossible harmony, peace, and subordination can exist.

It may not be improper to acquaint your Lordships, that this was the second time of this Man's appearing before the Council, for a similiar offence; and that, although the Lieutenant Governor, who enquired into the nature of the complaint, repeatedly advised him to ask Captain Allwright pardon before he was summoned to the Council, yet he refused to comply, and would on no account make any kind of concession.

We beg leave further to represent to your Lordships, that we consider this Man as a Servant to the House; his constant attendance being essentially necessary in the Hospital, in case of accidents by Fire, or want of Water in the Wards, &c. &c.

We have taken the liberty to inclose the Minutes of the Council, for your Lordships further information and directions therein. We are,

My Lords,

Your Lordships most obedient

Humble Servants,

THOMAS BAILLIE

THOMAS ALLWRIGHT

FRANCIS LYNN

ROBERT KERR

WILLIAM ANSELL

HENRY SMITH

JOHN MAULE.

(A Copy)

SIR

S I R,

I HAVE this moment received your Letter, and have but just time to acknowledge the receipt of it. I am sorry there are people in the Hospital to lead others in such very wrong proceedings, and particularly in the present case, as *Dickie* very readily promised me to ask pardon of Captain *Allwright* and the Council. I therefore wish to know who are these advisers, and should be glad you would send *Dickie* to me to-morrow morning, by nine o'clock: A measure I would wish to take, previous to any thing further to be done.

I am, Sir,

Albemarle-Street.

Your very humble servant,

To Lieutenant Governor Baillie.

(A Copy) JAMES CHARLES HARDY.

S I R,

DICKIE has just brought me your Letter of this morning. As much is to be said upon this subject, and indeed more than I can think proper to commit to paper in the hurry and necessity I am under to go from home upon business, I should be exceeding glad to see you to-morrow morning early, or Sunday morning, to explain what I said to Captain *Allwright*, and what I wrote to you about asking pardon in the Hall; by which I meant, not in strict conformity to the Minute of Council, but upon the floor of the Hall. And this was the meaning of Lord *Sandwich* when we talked upon it. I am sorry to desire you to give yourself the trouble of coming up; which, if attended with any inconvenience, you will be so good as to let me know.

Albemarle-Street, Friday Noon,

I am, Sir,

March 18, 1775.

Your very humble Servant,

To Lieutenant Governor Baillie.

(A Copy)

CHARLES HARDY.

At a Council, October 9, 1775.

P R E S E N T

Lieutenant Governor BAILLIE

Captain MAPLESDEN	Captain LYNN.
Lieutenant GORDON	Lieutenant MOYLE
Lieutenant BESSON	Lieutenant KERR
Lieutenant LEFEBERE	Lieutenant SMITH
Lieutenant ANSELL	Mr. GODBY

THE Lieutenant Governor acquainted the Council, that he had received repeated complaints, from the Officers and Pensioners, of the bad quality of the Small Beer; and that he had as frequently admonished the Master Brewer thereof, without its being properly remedied; in consequence of which he now laid the said Complaints before them, agreeable to the 17th Article of the General Instructions for the regulating and better government of the Pensioners and Servants of the said Hospital; wherein they are directed to apply a proper remedy, without delay, to all just causes of complaint. The Council thereupon went to the Brewhouse, and tasted each Vat of Beer separately, and found One Hundred and Eleven Barrels of the said Beer, as four as the nature of Small Beer would admit of; and were unanimously of opinion, that it was neither good, wholesome, or fit for the Pensioners to drink; and that it would be prejudicial to the health of the Pensioners to have Beer that was turned, broke into new Beer in the Tun, which hath been hitherto practised; therefore, ordered the said Beer to be started, to prevent such practices in future. The Council also, upon tasting the Beer for present use, found it good tasted, but very small, and scarce fit to keep a week, from brewing to brewing. And the Master Brewer being called in, and asked the reasons concerning the poverty of the Beer, answered, that it could not be otherwise during the three summer months, from the heat of the weather, and drawing six Barrels of Beer from a quarter of Malt; therefore proposed drawing half a Barrel less during the above months, which would make a material alteration in the quality of the Beer.

The Council, having maturely considered the causes that might affect the quality of the Beer, and examined the Malt and Hops, and compared the same with other samples, found the Malt good, but the Hops of an inferior quality; and having likewise considered the frequent complaints made

made formerly in the summer months, do unanimously recommend to the Board of Directors the Master Brewer's proposal, for making no more than Five Barrels and a Half of Small Beer (instead of Six) from a Quarter of Malt, during three months in the summer, in order to answer the comfortable and salutary end, intended for the general welfare of the Establishment.

Adjourned.

(A Copy)

N. B. This Complaint, to which the Board never gave any Answer, was made not in Summer, but in October, the best month for Brewing.

MIDDLESEX, To wit.

JAMES HATTERSLEY, Butcher, of Ship-Alley, Ratcliffe-Highway, came this day before me, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, and voluntarily maketh oath, That about three months ago he lived servant to Mr. Peter Mellish, Contractor for the Butcher's Meat served into the Royal Hospital at Greenwich, for the use of the Pensioners; and that he, the said James Hattersley, did, at different times, between the months of November, 1774, and the 24th of March, 1775, carry down, and deliver, Bulls Flesh into the said Hospital, where he cut up the same into Mess-pieces, for the use of the Pensioners therein; and particularly on the 13th of March; and this he then did, and has frequently done the same at other times, by order of the said Mr. Peter Mellish. And the said James Hattersley further saith, That he has himself slaughtered Bulls, the cods of which he has cut out, and the flesh he has carried to the said Royal Hospital at Greenwich, where he delivered the same to the proper Officers, and then cut it up into Mess-pieces, for the use of the Pensioners of the said Hospital. And he, the said James Hattersley, deposes, That he makes this affidavit voluntarily, without fee or reward, or expectation of profit or advantage to himself, of any kind whatever, either directly or indirectly.

Middlesex.—Sworn June 9, 1775,
before Robert Pell.

JAMES HATTERSLEY.

(A Copy)

MIDDLESEX, To wit.

JOHN BOYCOTT, Butcher, now Servant unto Mr. Peter Mellish, Contractor for the Butcher's Meat served unto the Royal Hospital at Greenwich, came before me this day, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, and maketh oath, That during the time he hath served the said Mr. Peter Mellish, which is about three months, the Beef he brought down to the Hospital, for the use of the Pensioners, has been chiefly that of Bulls and Bull-Stags, which hath been received into the said Hospital, and by him cut up into Mess-pieces of four pounds each, for the use of the Pensioners therein. And he further saith, that he brought down, and cut up into Mess-pieces, Two Bull-Stags, one of which was upon the 29th day of May, and the other on the first day of June last, for the use of the Pensioners of the said Hospital. And he further saith, That he maketh this Affidavit voluntarily, without fee or reward, or expectation of profit or advantage to himself, of any kind whatsoever, either directly or indirectly.

Middlesex.—Sworn June 9, 1775,
before Robert Pell.

JOHN BOYCOTT.

(A Copy)

MIDDLESEX, To wit.

ALEXANDER MOORE, Cook's first Mate of the new Kitchen of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich, came this day before me, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the said County, and voluntarily maketh oath, That he hath seen James Hattersley, Servant to Mr. Peter Mellish, deliver Bulls Flesh into the said Hospital, for the use of the Pensioners therein, having taking notice where the cods were cut out; and which he has seen cut up by him, the said James Hattersley, into Mess-pieces; and that he, the said Alexander Moore, has seen the said pieces, when dressed, served up to the tables of the Pensioners. And, he further saith, That the Contractor's Men, viz. James Hattersley and John Boycott, had owned to him, that the Beef they brought to the Hospital was very often the Flesh of Bulls and Bull-Stags. And he further saith, That he makes this affidavit voluntarily, without fee or reward, or expectation of profit or advantage

vantage to himself, directly or indirectly, in hopes only of seeing the poor Pensioners redressed; and for that reason, and of his own accord, he made the Lieutenant Governor acquainted with these transactions, and brought before him James Hattersley and John Boycott, Butchers, who declare to him their willingness to be examined upon oath before a Magistrate.

Middlesex.—Sworn, June 9, 1775,
before Robert Pell.

ALEXANDER MOORE.

(A. Copy)

I Gyles Lone, Notary Public, sworn and admitted, dwelling in London, do hereby certify, that the foregoing are exact and true copies of their respective originals, now to me Notary produced, fair and uncancelled; which after careful examination I do attest. Witness my Notarial Firm, and Seal, London, the tenth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five.

(A Copy)

GYLES LONE, Not. Pub.

MY LORD,

ROYAL HOSPITAL at GREENWICH, June 12, 1775.

I AM sorry to inform your Lordship that the Contractor, Melliss, for the Butchers Meat served to the Hospital, is continuing, or rather renewing additional oppressions on our poor Pensioners, notwithstanding the example we made a few years ago of transporting his Servant, a vile delinquent; but, if properly supported, I can now go a step higher, by exposing this principal Contractor in breaking his contract, and render him and others (as they deserve) forever infamous.

I here inclose your Lordship some materials, and after intreating your directions and support, most humbly beg your Lordship will do me the justice to believe that I do not search for idle matter of complaint, or unnecessary grievances; for though I always profess myself ready to exert myself zealously in every part of duty, yet the present affairs came upon me purely by the voluntary appearance of the persons concerned; and there are others ready to prove that the like abuses have continued for many years. I have also given copies of the affidavits to Sir Charles Hardy, but have reason to think, that, had my Superior chose to exert himself, he might have stopped this exuberance, by giving satisfaction to late complaints of this nature. Among other ways and means that have been devised to deter me from doing my duty, I have been threatened by this rich Contractor with a Law-suit, on a former representation to the Board of Directors, complaining of the bad quality of the Meat delivered for the Sick in the Infirmary; which, in the opinion of the Council, Physician, Surgeon and Dispenser, was not fit for Man to eat, in regard to quality, exclusive of its being in a state of putrefaction: yet there was no redress; though this said Contractor behaved in a most insolent manner to the Board, by telling them peremptorily, that he would have the Contract again; that he would supply Greenwich Hospital: and I am sorry to tell your Lordship, that he was encouraged in his abuse to me; for which, and for some other reasons, best known to some of the Board, he was rewarded with a new Contract for a whole year, instead of six months, though I begged it might be only six months, in order to keep him up to his good behaviour. I declare to your Lordship that it is my perpetual study to maintain quiet and good order, by a proper uniform discipline; but such are the proceedings of the Contractors and others, and so much have the Poor People here groaned under their yoke, that their complaints will be at last so loud as to be heard through the kingdom. I take the liberty, once more, of earnestly begging your Lordship's support in behalf of the poor Pensioners (who never turned their Backs, in Action, on the Enemy) against a most rapacious Contractor, who has been starving them for many years.

To the Right Honourable
the Earl of Sandwich.

I have the honour of being, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most faithful,

Most obliged, and most dutiful Servant,

(A Copy)

[No Answer]

THOMAS BAILLIE.

MY LORD,

IT is with great reluctance I trouble your Lordship with this Narrative, which I most humbly hope your Lordship will be pleased to seal my pardon. In the first place, I most earnestly crave permission to return your Lordship my most humble and unfeigned thanks for your clemency, placing me into Bread at the Royal Hospital at Greenwich.

Your

Your Lordship's supplicant, since being in possession of my place, have ever discharged my duty with integrity and good conscience.

Therefore your Lordship's supplicant thinks it a duty incumbent upon me, not to omit acquainting your Lordship, I have been repeatedly threatened, by Sir Charles Hardy, expulsion from my place, for no other reasons than discharging my conscience, against the Contractor for Butcher's meat, and as a true Witness, before the Justice, swore to what was just. On the 1st day of June, the Contractor sent Bull-Stag Beef to the Hospital, which I thought was my duty to stop in the scales; it not being proper for Men to eat. The Captain and Lieutenant were on their duty, and were sent for; and they went to Sir Charles Hardy, to make the affair known to him, who, instead of giving any satisfaction, ordered the said Meat to be dressed without the knowledge of Lieutenant Governor. I thought it convenient, when the Meat was boiled, to save three pieces, and had them distinguished by the Boatswain and his Mate, then upon duty. I therefore thought very hard, such proceedings should escape me unnoticed, and acquainted Lieutenant Governor of the same; also informed him, the Contractor's Men had declared to me, they were really ashamed to put such Meat in the scales. Also they said that they were very willing to go before any Magistrate to verify, the meat that they then brought to the Hospital was no other than Bull-Stag Beef, and that they frequently had brought down Bull Beef and Ram Mutton. This they positively declared, not only to me, but also made the same known to Lieutenant Governor when they went with me before him.

Therefore, my Lord, most earnestly I implore your Lordship's clemency and protection, in consideration of my family, hoping your Lordship will free me from any future threatening from Sir Charles Hardy; as I declare, what I have transacted was merely my compassion to the poor Pensioners, who, in reality, could not eat the Meat, neither by any means could they dispose of the same.

My Lord, I am, with sincere respect,
Royal Hospital, Greenwich, Your Lordship's most humble,
Obedient, and devoted Servant,

(A Copy) ALEXANDER MOORE, COOK.

To the Right Honourable the Earl of Sandwich.

At a Council held in the Royal Hospital for Seamen, at Greenwich, the 25th of August, 1775.

P R E S E N T

Lieutenant Governor BAILEY

Captain ALLWRIGHT

Lieutenant KERR

Lieutenant ANSELL

Captain LYNN

Lieutenant SMITH

Dr. HOSSACK.

DOCTOR HOSSACK acquainted the Council, that Mr. Lawrence, Storekeeper of his Majesty's Dock-Yard, at Woolwich, called upon him, on Monday the 21st Instant, to inform him, that the Boy, Jenkinson, had been cruelly beaten with a rattan upon the thigh, by the Guardian; and desired Dr. Hossack to go with him to see the Boy at the School, when, upon examining the said Boy, there appeared several black and blue welts upon his thigh; upon which Dr. Hossack, with the said Mr. Lawrence, went to complain to the Lieutenant Governor, who not being at home, they waited upon Captain Lynn, the Captain of the week, who ordered the Guardian and Mates to appear before the Council, where it appeared by the evidence of the four Mates, that the said Guardian, on Thursday, the 17th Instant, without any fault in the said Boy, ordered his liberty to be stopped; and upon James Armstrong, the Mate, representing that the Boy was not upon the Black List, the said Guardian ordered that he should be put on, and immediately called for him, and said he would begin with him, and punish the said Boy himself; then ordered him to strip, and stoop forward (or, in terms used on board of ships, to *Sand Chalks*) and struck him several times, with all his force, upon his thigh, with a rattan. After which, he ordered thirty-one Boys to be flogged in the same manner by the Mates, who declared, that the said Guardian often reproved them for not striking hard enough; and that the Boy, John Adams, was beat so severely, that he bled in the thigh, and has since absconded; and that the Guardian has made a practice of sending for Boys into his room, and flogging them, with a cane

in

in his hand, in a threatening manner, to sign papers of his own writing, to the prejudice and disadvantage of the Mates. The Council, having taken the same into consideration, are unanimously of opinion, that the frequent desertion among the Charity Boys is caused by the cruelty and inhumanity of the Guardian; therefore think him an unfit person to be continued any longer in that station: But as the Council are desirous of acting in concurrence with the Board of Directors, for the good of the Charity Boys, they have thought it necessary to lay this case before them, that a more proper person may be appointed in his room; otherwise the Council cannot think themselves responsible for the good order and discipline of the Boys Ward, which makes a very considerable part of the Government of the Hospital. By Order of the Council,

(A Copy)

DANIEL BALL.

No answer. The Guardian, who is a Pensioner, protected by the Board.

HONOURABLE SIR,

The humble Petition of. MARY O'HARA

S H E W E T H,

THAT your Petitioner has a Son, *Mathew O'Hara*, a Charity Boy, in the School of Royal Hospital at Greenwich; and, for some trifling offence, the Guardian of the Boys has beat her said son, and cut his lip unmercifully; he having, since your Petitioner withheld money from him, (as there is now no more Crown Pieces to give him) owed the Boy a spite, and has carried his malice to such a length, that the Child cannot stay under the said Guardian.

May it therefore please your Honour, to let your Petitioner take her son out of the said School, or to let the Guardian answer for his abuse, as he now tells them to curse God, and die.

And your Petitioner, as in Duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

To the Lieutenant Governor.

(A Copy)

MARY O'HARA,

SIR,

December the 21st, 1775:

AGENTLEMAN of character and fortune, having brought with him to my house the Resident of *Venice* to see the Hospital; and as I am always happy in shewing every possible civility to strangers; I accompanied them to the Observatory, and afterwards shewed them the Hospital, with the sole view of doing honour to this noble Foundation. But, alas! what was my surprise, upon entering the Boys' Ward, on seeing my noble Guests express, both by their words and actions, the most disagreeable sensations! which (as a principal officer of the house) doubly affected me, as the propriety, neatness, and happiness of the Hospital is as much my pleasure, and my pride, as it is my earnest and constant endeavours to attain. I therefore directed the Captain of the Week to examine into the cause of the foul putrid Air in that Ward; whose report I here inclose, delivered in the most moderate terms of expression; for in my opinion the complicated stench therein might have been productive of what is called the Jail Distemper. These, Sir, are the blessed effects of secluding the Guardian, Nurses, and Boys, as well as the Turncock, (whose remissness on this occasion is but too conspicuous) from the lawful government of the House. I have however given orders that the whole be immediately cleansed; and though I take this method of laying the true state of that Ward before you, I beg leave to assure you, that my endeavours shall not be wanting for the general welfare of the Hospital, notwithstanding the opposition I met with in the execution of my duty. I am, Sir,

To Sir Charles Hardy,

Your most obedient

Governor of Greenwich Hospital.

And most humble Servant,

(A Copy.)

THOMAS BAILLIE.

N. B. This Letter produced only a trifling reprimand to the Guardian and Turncock.

SIR,

Royal Hospital, December 20, 1775.

IN obedience to your directions to me last night, I went this morning, about ten o'clock, to visit the Boys' Ward, taking with me the Lieutenant of the Week, Mr. Kerr, the regulating Boatwain, and his Assistant, when we found the Ward in a neglected state, as follows: *viz.* The Boys

Boys chambers-pots were all of them furred to a most shameful degree, and stinking intolerably, some with urine in them; the copper pails also furred in so bad a manner as to have thick scales of the fur peel off, and stinking worse, if possible, than the chamber-pots. Besides these nuisances, the Ward not by any means clean in other respects. Add to this, the water cisterns stinking as bad as bilge-water, two of which are under lock: of one the Guardian produced the key, and opened it; of the other, one of the Mates produced the key, and opened it. Upon the whole there was a most dreadful stench, insomuch that it affected my head, and Mr. Kerr's stomach.

Witness ROBERT KERR, Lieut.

I am, Sir,

JOHN BROWN, Boats.

Your most obedient humble Servant,

JAMES ANDERSON, Boats.

T. ALLWRIGHT.

To Lieutenant Governor Baillie.

(A Copy.)

At a Council held in the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich, August 9, 1776.

P R E S E N T,

Lieutenant Governor BAILLIE

Captain ALLWRIGHT

Captain LYNN

Lieutenant GORDON

Lieutenant MOYLE

Lieutenant BESSON

Lieutenant KERR

Lieutenant ANSELL

Dr. HOSSACK

Mr. GODBY

A Minute of the Board of Directors, of the 3d instant, was laid before the Council by the Lieutenant Governor; setting forth, "that the Board, taking notice of many inconveniences which attend the practice of the Pensioners selling their Provisions, and also that of their being chalk'd, and Money given them in lieu of their Meat, upon their admission into the Hospital; on account whereof, instead of having the allowance of Meat, according to the establishment, five days, they have it in their turn only three days in the week, and improper uses are made of the Money so received by them in lieu: and desiring the Council to report their opinion to them on Saturday next, if the abolishing the custom of Chalking, and giving such Money in lieu, which appears so prejudicial and productive of many irregularities, will be attended with any, and what impropriety and inconvenience."

The Council, having taken the same into mature consideration, are unanimously of opinion, that the Money List, and Butler's List, since the great increase of Pensioners, is now become necessary, and expedient; having no place at present to accommodate them at the tables, where only 1250 can commodiously dine: besides which, it contributes to the ease and satisfaction of those who have families, by dining with them; and also from the confinement of attending twice a day at the Hall for their Provisions.

That the Chalking-off the Pensioners, and giving them Money in lieu of Meat and Cheese, indiscriminately to all, on their admission into the Hospital, and continuing that practice ever after, is not only contrary to the establishment, but injurious to the health and morals of the Pensioners, and is attended with many inconveniences, improprieties, and irregularities: and the Council are therefore unanimously of opinion, that the said custom ought to be totally abolished, to prevent their making improper uses of the Money so received by them, in lieu of Meat and Cheese. And

The Council beg leave to recommend to the consideration of the Board, that, in order to prevent the Pensioners from selling their Beef, there be allowed three Mutton-days in a week, instead of two, and only two Beef-days instead of three; the Mutton being seldom or never complain'd of, and the Beef very frequently: and for the same reason, the people in the Helpless Wards to be allowed two Mutton-days, two Veal-days, and only one Beef-day; the Physician being of opinion, that they cannot eat their Beef; and therefore are obliged to sell it: and farther, that every Patient in the Infirmary, while under cure, be struck off the Money List, or Butler's List, at the discretion of the Physician, or Surgeon.

Adjourned.

(Copy.)

N. B. It would surprise indeed, if sick and helpless Men could eat or digest the flesh of Bulls.

AM

At a Council held in the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich, April 21, 1777.

P R E S E N T,

Lieutenant Governor BAILLIE

Captain MAPLEDEN	Captain ALLWRIGHT
Captain LYNN	Captain CHADS
Lieutenant MOYLE	Lieutenant BESSON
Lieutenant KERR	Lieutenant LEFEBERE
Lieutenant SMITH	Lieutenant ANSELL

The Minutes of the last Council were read and confirm'd.

THE Lieutenant Governor acquainted the Council, that Captain *Allwright*, the Captain of the Week, upon duty, inform'd him, that *Adam Meldrum*, a Pensioner, had, in a very quiet, decent, and orderly manner complained to him, in behalf of himself and several other Pensioners, that their allowance of Beer, for several days successively, had been of so bad a quality, that they could not drink it; that the Beer served to them in the morning grew sour by the evening; that, in consequence of such representation, the Lieutenant Governor directed Captain *Allwright* and Lieutenant *Ansell*, the Lieutenant for the Week, to taste the Beer at the sinks, at the usual hour of serving it, and to report to him if there was any just cause of complaint: and they having reported to him yesterday, that they had tasted the Beer at the sinks, which was of a very indifferent quality; and the Butler also confirming the same; the Lieutenant Governor lays the matter before the Council, agreeable to the 17th Article of the Orders for the better regulating the Pensioners and Servants of the said Hospital, and desires the said Article may be read, which was read accordingly.

Adam Meldrum, a Pensioner, being then called in, and ask'd what cause he had to find fault with the Beer, says it had no taste either of Malt or Hops; that if he kept it three or four hours it grew sour, and gave him the gripes, and that it continued in the same state the whole week; and says he was informed, that it affected several other Men in the same manner. Being ask'd, why he did not complain sooner, says that several people talk'd of complaining, but deferred it, in hopes that the Beer would be better; upon which he replied, that he would complain to Captain *Chads*, whose sentinel he was, and having complained to him, was sent by Captain *Chads* to Captain *Allwright*, the Captain of the week.

Joseph Simpson, being ask'd if he had any cause to complain of the Beer, says it was of a sour, watery, cold quality for about eight or ten days past; and being ask'd why he did not complain sooner, says he was sorry to be the first, hoping it would be better; but that the bad quality of the Beer frequently gave him the gripes, and that he was served with the Beer at the North side of the Hall.

Henry Beale, being ask'd whether he had any just cause to complain of the Beer, says it has been very bad for eight or nine days past; that it frequently gave him the gripes, turn'd sour in an hour or two, and made him sick; and that he was served at the South side of the Hall: and being ask'd why he did not complain sooner, says he was in hopes of its being better, not being willing to complain for two or three days, but that all the Men in his Ward complained in the same manner.

Luke Davis, the Sinkman at the East Hall, being called in, and ask'd if he knew the cause of the bad quality of the Beer, says it began to be bad about a week since; and he imputes the cause of it to a mixture of different Beer at the same serving, sometimes sweet and palatable, at other times crabbed and sour; that he frequently observed a murmuring among the Men, and complained to the Butler three times in the course of eight days, telling him the Beer was sour, crabbed and watery, and that the Butler said he would go and acquaint the Master Brewer of it. Upon being ask'd, Who turns the Beer on the Pipes? replied, that it was *John Pope*, the Foreman under the Master Brewer: and whether he (the said *Davis*) had drank of the Beer, says he did, and that it gave him the gripes.

William Rutledge, the Sinkman at the West Hall, being ask'd, if he knew whether the Beer had been of an inferior quality for some time past, says, that on the 14th of this Month, about ten gallons of the Water came on instead of Beer, which, after measuring, he threw away by order:

order of the Butler; that it afterwards came on better, but continued watery till the 16th instant, when they had a very good run of Beer; that on Thursday morning last, he filled twelve jacks, which was very good Beer, and about a quarter of an hour after it proved very bad, and continued so till yesterday; and believes it to proceed from different mixtures of Beer and Water, turned on from the Brew-house; and that he has frequently had twenty gallons of Water run into the Sink, between the old Vat being out, and the new Vat turned on; that having ask'd *Pope*, the foreman, the reason of turning on Water instead of Beer, answered, "That if he," the said *Rutledge*, "did not know, he never should;" that *Christopher Marlborough*, and *Christopher Moran*, assistants to the Sinkman, knew it to be the constant practice for years, and from his own knowledge, four years, to turn on Water betwixt the draughts of Beer, about twice a week upon an average; and further says, that he is ready to make oath to the truth of the above, if required.

The Butler, being ask'd if he knew the cause of the bad quality of the Beer, says he supposes it to proceed from a mixture of Beer and Water turned on from the Brewhouse.

Christopher Marlborough declares, that he has known, for seven or eight years past, a mixture of Beer and Water come in, at the middle of a serving, to the amount of eight or ten jacks, containing four gallons each; that having ask'd *Pope* the Foreman, how it happened to have Water in the middle of a serving, answered, "If he did not know, he never should." And that he, the said *Marlborough*, is ready to make oath of the above, if required.

Mr. *Fearon*, the Master Brewer, being called in, and the foregoing declarations of the Pensioners read to him, was asked to what cause he attributed the bad quality of the Beer for eight days past; says, that the Butler sent to inform him, that there was Water mixed with the Beer; and having enquired of *Pope*, the Foreman, was informed by him, that there was a cock which had communication from the Reservoir of Water, to the Pipes that convey the Beer from the Brewhouse to the Sinks, which he supposed leak'd; that he sent to the Clerk of the Works' office, and had it repair'd, and says there is another Cock which has a communication under ground with a flap in the Brewhouse; that it has been the practice to cleanse the Pipes once five times a year, and that the Cocks are useful at no other times; and that it is a doubt with him, whether there is any necessity for the said Cocks at all, and wishes to have the opinion of the Clerk of the Works upon the matter: and being asked whether he found any surplus of Beer from the quantity of Water let in between the servings from the different Vats, remarked, that one day last week he had three Barrels and a half surplus, and that no complaint was made to him of the bad quality of the Beer, except one day in last week.

John Pope, the Foreman, being asked if he knew the cause of the bad quality of the Beer, says, there was a leak in the Cock that communicates with the Water from the Reservoir to the main Pipe, which he supposes mixed with the Beer; that he applied seven or eight times to the Clerk of the Works' Office before he could get it repaired; and that it is near six Months since his first application; that when he first applied to the Clerk of the Works' Office, he acquainted the Master Brewer with the defect.

Mr. *Sheen*, who attends for the Clerk of the Works, being called in, said that about a Month ago Mr. *Fearon*, the Master Brewer, sent a note to the Office to repair the Pipes at the Brewhouse that wanted mending, which was done accordingly; and that, whenever any application was made from the Master Brewer to repair the Pipes, it was done immediately.

The Council, from the foregoing declarations, are of opinion, that the frequent complaints of the badness of the Beer, proceed from the ready and easy communication of the Water-Cocks with the Pipes which convey the Beer from the Brewhouse to the Sink, where the Beer is served; and therefore recommend it to the Board of Directors, for the safety and security of the Pensioners, that their Beer may not be impoverished with Water, to have the communication of the Water-Cocks cut off, as the Beer-Pipes may be cleansed without them.

(A Copy)

DANIEL BALL.

At a Council held in the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich, April 25, 1777.

P R E S E N T,

Lieutenant Governor BAILLIE

Captain ALLWRIGHT	Captain CHADS
Lieutenant BESSON	Lieutenant KERR
Lieutenant SMITH	Mr. GODBY.

The Minutes of the last Council were read.

THE Master Plumber to the Hospital, (who was not in the way at the Meeting of the last Council) being called in, and asked concerning the leaks in the Pipes at the Brewhouse, says it is impossible such a quantity of water, as mentioned in the Declarations, could proceed from the leaks in the Cocks; that, in his opinion, not more than a pail or two of water could spring from the said leak in twenty-four hours: and, in order to prevent any leakage, or turning water on to the Beer, proposed putting on a Waste Cock, with a Key; which Key was proposed to be deposited with the Commanding Officer, till further order. But the Council having repaired to the Brewhouse, and there appearing a third Water-pipe (not mentioned before) communicating with the Beer-pipe, thought fit to take no further step, 'till the Clerk of the Works had conferred with the Master Plumber and Brewer. Resolved, that a Copy of the above be laid before the Board of Directors for their further information.

(A Copy)

DANIEL BALL.

At a Council held in the Royal Hospital for Seamen, at Greenwich, May 8, 1777,

P R E S E N T,

Lieutenant Governor BAILLIE

Captain MAPLESDEN	Captain CHADS
Lieutenant MOYLE	Lieutenant BESSON
Lieutenant KERR	Lieutenant ANSELL.

IN consequence of a Complaint from all the Pensioners in the East Dining-hall, this morning, of the badness of the Beer, which they refused to take, that it was watery and ill-tasted; and Mr. Godby, the Steward, having, in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor, acquainted the Captain of the Week that it was not fit to be served to the Pensioners, the Captain desired it might be started into casks and gauged, and another vat of fresh Beer served: And this afternoon, at half past two o'clock, all the Men in both Halls complained to the Lieutenant Governor, that their Beer was ill-tasted and watery; and he having directed the Captain and Lieutenant of the Week, with the Steward's Clerk, in the absence of the Steward, to taste the Beer, and report to him if there was just cause of complaint; and they having reported to him that the Beer is bad, ill-tasted and watery, and not fit for any Men to drink: The Lieutenant Governor thereupon summoned a Council, who sent for several pots of Beer from both ends and middle of each Dining-hall; and are unanimously of opinion, that it is thick, ill-tasted and watery, and not fit for the Pensioners to drink; therefore resolved to repair to the Brewhouse, to taste the Beer in the Vats, and found two Vats, N°: 10 and N°: 16, of the same brewing, not fit to be served to the Pensioners; and having tasted another brewing, which was something better, ordered that the same be served; there being none of a better sort in the Brewhouse. The Master Brewer, being asked what he had to say respecting the quality of the Beer, acknowledged that it was weak, and of a very indifferent quality.

Resolved, that the Lieutenant Governor be desired to wait upon the Governor with a Copy of the above Minutes, hoping he will take some method with the Board of Directors for the relief of the Pensioners.

(A Copy)

DANIEL BALL.

N. B. The Lieutenant Governor finding the Governor, who was in Town, laid up with the gout, waited himself on Lord Sandwich, before whom he laid these complaints, and was answered, that he would hear no Complaint that did not come from the Board of Directors.

At a Council held, May 30, 1777, at the Royal Hospital at Greenwich,
P R E S E N T

Lieutenant Governor BAILLIE

Captain MAPLESDEN
Lieutenant BESSON
Lieutenant SMITH

Captain ALLWRIGHT
Lieutenant KERR
Lieutenant ANSELL.

Mr. GODBY

MR. GODBY having acquainted the Governor that the Pensioners this morning refused to take the Beer, in consequence of which, the Governor sent for the Captain and Lieutenant of the Week; and having tasted the Beer himself, found it of a quality not fit to be thrown away, and referred the same to the Council, who were then sitting, for their opinions, who sent for the Butler from the Dining-hall; and the Butler being asked what he thought of the Beer, said, it was rather tart, and that it was refused by the Body of the People in the Dining-hall. The Council, having tasted the Beer, were of opinion that it was not good Beer, but not fit to be thrown away; and therefore ordered it to remain on the tables for the Pensioners.

(A Copy)

At a Council, the 27th of June, 1777,

P R E S E N T

Lieutenant Governor BAILLIE

Captain ALLWRIGHT
Captain LYNN
Lieutenant KERR

Lieutenant LEFEBRE
Lieutenant SMITH.

BENJAMIN LUNN complained of his House Shoes being worn out in a fortnight's time. Upon examining the said Shoes, there appeared Brown Paper between the Soles, and were much inferior to the pattern; and that the Contractor had thereby imposed upon the Hospital. Therefore, ordered the above Shoes to be changed for another pair, in lieu of those to be returned to the Contractor.

(A Copy)

N. B. Shoes were formerly contracted for at 4s. 6d. when leather was cheaper: this Contract for Brown-Paper Shoes is at 3s. 7d. per pair.

At a Council, the 18th of July, 1777,

P R E S E N T

Lieutenant Governor BAILLIE

Captain ALLWRIGHT
Captain CHADS
Lieutenant ANSELL

Captain LYNN
Lieutenant MOYLE

THOMAS FRENCHAM having complained to the Council of his Stockings, that one pair of the two served to him at the last serving, that is, in May last, were worn out in a Fortnight, which ought to have lasted Eight Months, and that the other pair were much worn in the same time, which he produced before the Council: and John Robinson, and several others, having also complained that their Stockings, which they now have, are much inferior to what they used to have; and it appearing to the Council that these Complaints are justly founded: Ordered, that a Copy of this Minute be sent to the Steward, desiring he would lay the same before the Board of Directors for their information, that the necessary measures may be taken for redressing the Men.

By order of the Council, in the absence of Daniel Ball,

J. SAMWORTH.

This Complaint produced no Answer.

(A Copy)

N. B. The former Contract was at 20d. per pair, when good Stockings were supply'd: this Contract is at 19d. per pair.

GENTLEMEN,

ROYAL HOSPITAL, GREENWICH, April 21, 1777.

I EXPECTED your Secretary, Mr. Ibbetson, would not have refused me a Copy of the Charge and Minutes taken at your last Board; particularly as I signified, my motive for the application was, to exculpate myself from a false and vexatious accusation as ever was made before any Board; for I can aver it was not my intention to complain of the badness of the Pork: had I been so inclined, I would at once have gone to the Commanding Officer, and not to Mr. Godby. When I mentioned it at Council, it was after Captain Allwright had praised the Beef served to the Pensioners the day before; and then I said no more than this, "I wished the Pork may prove as good on the Festival, as I saw there was a sow with large dogs." Upon this Mr. Godby asked me if I was a judge of Pork. I did not answer till he made a second time the same enquiry, when I replied, Yes. He then said he would have a survey; to which I replied, it was then too late, as the Meat had been received, cut up and salted above twenty-four hours. At the same time I told him, I did not mention it as a complaint, but spoke it as a matter of opinion of my own; and I dare say every Gentleman present at Council, which was Captain Allwright, Captain Chads, and Lieutenant Kerr, understood me in that manner; to whom I could wish, in justice to myself, you would apply for a further insight into this business. It rested there, and I thought no more about it, as there was nothing more said by Mr. Godby on the subject; nor had I any knowledge he intended to take the steps he did since; for, though I was the Lieutenant on duty, he did not send to me when he was taking his partial survey. I call it partial, because he neither called the Captain or Lieutenant on duty to be present at the survey, though he knew it was customary, and that it was also his duty to do so. And so eager was he to make this partial survey, that in the absence of the Master Cook, he ordered the Binn in which the Pork was deposited under lock and key, to be broke open, after it had been delivered to the charge of the Master Cook, by the Contractor's Servant, in the presence of the proper Officers, without the knowledge of the Commanding Officer. And if the Board think proper to enter farther into the matter, I can prove the words I spoke by sufficient evidence upon oath. Thus, Gentlemen, I have taken the liberty to lay before you a fair and candid account of this transaction. From hence I flatter myself, that upon enquiry it would be found that disputes had, on similar occasions, arisen very high between Mr. Godby and other Officers of the Week upon their duty; nor would he have taken the steps he did on this occasion, but from a want of knowledge in his own duty, by which precipitancy in his conduct the Peace of the Community has been much interrupted. I have, Gentlemen, after forty-three years service in His Majesty's Navy, thirty-two of which a Lieutenant, never had my character called in question before, and am in hopes of being redressed.

To John Ibbetson, Esq. Secretary
to the Board of Directors of
Greenwich Hospital

(A Copy)

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most humble Servant;

J. ANSELL.

P. S. With the Clerk of the Cheque I find no fault, as his credulity drew him into the measures; his too great confidence in the Steward made him sign a Letter he was an utter stranger to, as he was not present when the conversation on the Pork was brought up.

SIR,

MY absence from town hindered my being acquainted so early as was necessary with the intentions of the Honourable Board to cleanse and repair the Painted Hall; but as I am informed nothing is yet done or concluded in that affair, I hope I am not too late in my application. I have been to Greenwich, and taken a survey of what I hear is to be done. I find, from a long series of experience, that very few who have not made that particular branch their study can be acquainted with, that the Cieling of the Hall wants nothing to be done to it; and every thing that is done will injure, rather than assist it: it is in a perfect state, and all that is wanting, is to clean the large Picture at the end, the sides, and vestibule, to make a harmony in the whole. The work certainly is a great undertaking, and should be done by those thoroughly acquainted with it; and from the judgment I have in those matters, may be executed in a masterly manner for about 350£. and I will undertake it for that sum: but should it be found, on a further examination, that the Cielings will want a varnish, or, on getting up to them, it should be found that they are not so clean as I at present think they are, I will also undertake to do what is necessary,

necessary, and repair the same, for 200 £ . more; but at present think it money thrown away. I shall be infinitely obliged to you for your assistance in this matter, and to give me the mode for a further application. If any Gentleman is already engaged, or under engagements, I would by no means wish to make application; if not, the Honourable Board will, I hope, consider me as one of the Suplicants; and, from my long experience, I flatter myself I may be a successful one.

I am, Sir, with respect,

Hay-Market, N^o. 23.

April 30, 1771.

Your most obedient Servant,

(A Copy)

JOHN GREENWOOD.

To Captain Baillie, Lieutenant Governor of Greenwich Hospital.

N. B. This Letter, which has been mentioned in the Case, page 11, was not presented in form to the Board of Directors, but only shewn to some of the Members, who advised it to be suppressed, the bargain having been confirmed, in favour of another Person, for One Thousand Pounds, &c.

THESE are to certify the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that Sampson Gundy served under my command in the last war, on board His Majesty's Ships Norwich, Hero, and Achilles; during which time he behaved with sobriety, and was always obedient to command; and is now, in my opinion, a proper object for Greenwich Hospital.

Given under my hand, on board his Majesty's Ship Albion, in Hamoaze, August 8, 1772,

(A Copy)

S. BARRINGTON.

Note, This poor Man not being able to get into Greenwich Hospital, died in a lodging room, which a Pensioner had hired for his Wife; and had he not been received by his old Mess-mate, he probably would have perished in the Street.

SHIPS.	ENTRY.	QUALITY.	DISCHARGED.	TIME.			
				Y.	M.	W.	D.
Argyle,	July 22, 1743	Ab.	September 8, 1746	3	1	3	0
Folkstone,	September 9, 1746	Ab.	June 20, 1748	1	10	0	5
Culloden,	November 11, 1751	Ab.	Dec. August 28, 1752	0	10	0	4
Ditto,	November 4, 1752	Ab.	November 15, 1752	0	0	1	5
Crown,	April 10, 1753	Ab.	August 26, 1754	1	4	3	6
Norwich,	August 27, 1754	Ab.	April 17, 1757	2	8	1	3
Achilles,	April 18, 1757	Ab.	August 27, 1762	5	4	2	6
Hero,	August 28, 1762	Ab.	December 24, 1762	0	4	1	0
			Paid off				
Merlin,	April 30, 1763	Yn. P. Room	July 15, 1765	2	2	3	0
			Paid off				
Achilles,	September 6, 1765	Ab.	September 16, 1766	1	0	1	4
Yarmouth,	July 16, 1769	Ab.	July 30, 1770	1	0	2	1
St. Antonio,	September 1, 1770	Ab.	May 30, 1771	0	9	2	6
Triumph,	Borne in that Ship Sup ^y .						
Active,	May 31, 1771	Ab.	June 3, 1772	1	0	0	4
St. Alban's,	June 4, 1771	Invalided	July 25, 1772	0	1	3	4
			Unserviceable.				
				21	8	0	5

Navy-Office, 11, 1772.

THESE are to certify, that Sampson Gundy is borne on the books of his Majesty's ships above-mentioned, the times, and in the qualities as there expressed, being all the ships in his list.

(A Copy)

E. BENTHAM.

This Certificate is given on Mr. Bryer's Letter, dated August 8, 1770.

THESE are to certify, that the Bearer, *Lewis Johnson*, belonging to his Majesty's ship *Rose*, was sent to this place upon the Twenty-second Day of April, 1777, for the cure of a Fever, and was discharged hence this Twenty-first Day of May, 1777, to go forthwith to the *Success*, unserviceable, by order of *Lord Howe*, in consequence of an amputated Thigh.

Witness my hand, the 21st Day of May, 1777,

CUTHBERT CHALLONER,
Appointed to take care of Sick and Hurt
Seamen, at *Long Island*.

S I R,

IN answer to your Letter of the 2d Instant, desiring that *Lewis Johnson*, who you set forth as minuted, may be admitted into *Greenwich Hospital*, as you have subsisted him some time; I am to acquaint you, that this Man is not minuted for the Hospital, and that you have done wrong in ordering him to be subsisted, and must yourself be answerable for the expence.

I am, Sir,

To Lieutenant Smith,

Greenwich Hospital.

(A Copy)

Your very humble servant,

R. STEPHENS.

N. B. It is presumed, that there are no instances of *Marines* (with such honourable and ample Certificates of Service as the above-mentioned two Seamen) who have not found an Asylum in *Greenwich Hospital*.

S I R,

Admiralty-Office, April 19, 1742.

THE Directors of *Greenwich Hospital* having laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty a Copy of the Minutes taken of their Proceedings, upon a representation from yourself and Council of the Hospital, that the Pensioners Dishes are not deep enough to hold the quantity of Broth, or Pease-Soup, allowed them; and also upon a complaint made to them, that the said Pensioners have not for some time past had their full Allowance of Broth and Pease Soup; and the Directors being of opinion that the old Dishes have been artificially beaten flat, by which means the Men have been defrauded of their just Allowance of their Provisions; and that there are other frauds and abuses attending this affair, to the prejudice of the poor Men; I am commanded by their Lordships to desire you to call the Officers together in Council, and to let them know, that their Lordships think them very blameable for suffering such abuses to be practised, which could not have been without their extreme indolence in not looking into the affairs of the Hospital; that their own establishment in the Hospital is for the Government, Care, and Protection of the poor Men, and that it is their duty to look daily into every thing, and to remedy every disorder; and not to discharge themselves by throwing it upon the Under-Officers and Servants: And that their Lordships, being determined to go to the bottom of this complaint, do charge them to find out and inform them at whose door the fraud ought to be laid, that their Lordships may give such directions therein as they shall judge proper.

I am, Sir,

Sir John Jennings.

(A Copy)

Your most obedient Servant,

THOMAS CORBETT.

N. B. In those days the Council of the Officers of the House were severely reprimanded for not doing their Duty, in looking daily into every abuse, and to remedy every disorder. Now-a-days they are reprimanded for presuming to attempt to remedy or represent any abuse.

S I R,

SIR,

Admiralty-Office, May 7, 1742.

MY Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having referred to the Directors of Greenwich Hospital, the report made by yourself and Officers of the said Hospital, in Council, dated the 23d past, relating to the flatness of the Pewter Dishes made use of to hold the Broth and Pease-pottage, served out to the Pensioners; the said Directors have returned hither a Reply, a Copy of which I am ordered to send you inclosed: They have therein set forth a fact, which has a very fraudulent appearance, and it imports little by what means the Dishes became shallow: but if it be true, what they assert, that the Dishes hold but little more than half the quantity they ought to do, the poor Men must have been greatly injured; and the allegations in the Officer's Report, that the Pensioners have made no complaint, does rather aggravate their conduct in suffering the Men's patience to be so long imposed upon.

My Lords of the Admiralty do command me to express myself in such a manner as may shew their wrath and displeasure at such a proceeding, and expect a clear and satisfactory answer to the following questions, viz.

What quantity of Broth or Pease Pottage the dishes ought to hold?

What quantity the old Dishes do hold?

What is done with the Surplus?

You will please to communicate this to the Officers of the House in Council.

I am, Sir,

Sir John Jennings.

(A Copy)

Your most humble Servant,

THOMAS CORBETT.

N. B. In this Letter it appears that the Officers were to prevent any cause of complaint in the Hospital. At present they are not allowed to prevent, or even attend to any complaints however regularly made.

SIR,

Admiralty-Office, May 15, 1742.

I HAVE laid your Letter of the 11th instant, together with a Copy of the Minutes of the Council of the same day, before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, who finding thereby that the surplus of Broth and Pease Pottage is given, according to custom, to the Wives and Children of Pensioners and poor people at the gates, their Lordships do very much disapprove of that custom, because there ought to be no surplus at all before dinner; but the whole allowance should be served upon the tables to the Pensioners; and if they cannot then eat the whole, what remains after dinner, then to go to and amongst such Wives and Children of the Pensioners, in such manner as the Councel shall think proper. And their Lordships command me to signify their directions to you and the Council, that a rule be made accordingly for the future, in conformity to this determination of their Lordships.

Their Lordships do very well know, that the Directors have no power but in the management of the Revenue and Estates of the Hospital, and in carrying on the Works of the Building; nor did they assume any on this occasion: but their Lordships shall always take well of them any informations that tend to rectify any mistakes or omissions whatsoever concerning the state of the Hospital.

I am, Sir,

To the Honourable Sir John Jennings.

(A Copy)

Your obedient humble Servant,

THOMAS CORBETT.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

WE, the Council of the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich, do humbly certify, that upon Wednesday last, between three and four of the clock in the afternoon, Mr. Lee took off the bandages of John Drew, John Stevens, James Cooper, and John Harvey; that John Stevens's rupture came down within five minutes, when his bandage again was put on, and he has worn it ever since; and he admits he is not cured: That James Cooper's rupture came down in about an hour after his bandage was taken off, and was then put on again; he has ever since wore his

his bandage; and admits he is not cured: That *John Harvey*'s rupture came down in about an hour after his bandage was taken off; that he has ever since wore his bandage; and admits he is not cured: That *John Drew* has not worn his bandage since Wednesday last; says, that about an hour after his bandage was taken off he felt some pain, that the part is very weak, and he is doubtful whether it will stand or not; that he has been cut twice by Mr *Lee*, and declared he would not undergo the operation again upon any consideration whatsoever; and admits he has not cured *Daniel Dingley*. Witness our hands, this 30th day of January, 1756.

(A Copy)

J. TOWNSEND, Admiral.
J. LLOYD, Captain.
J. RYCAUT, Captain.
S. JARVIS.
N. TENDAL.

An Estimate of the Revenue and Expence of maintaining 140 Charity Boys in the Royal Hospital at Greenwich, viz.

R E V E N U E.	EX P E N C E.
To the Profits on Provisions bought of the Pensioners - - - - 1600 0 0	By Victualling 140 Boys and five Nurses - - - - - 550 0 0
Absences of Pensioners - - - 50 0 0	Their Coals and Candles, &c. 150 0 0
Cheques of Provisions - - - 180 0 0	Other Stores - - - - - 120 0 0
Mulcts - - - - - 40 0 0	For Bonds and Indentures - - - 45 0 0
Three-fourths of the Money col- lected for shewing the Chapel and Hall - - - - - 300 0 0	Schooling the Boys - - - - - 250 0 0
A Year's Interest on £4000 Old South-Sea Annuities, at £3 per Cent. - - - - - 120 0 0	The five Nurses Wages - - - 75 0 0
Ditto £4000 New ditto - - - 120 0 0	The Guardian and Assistants Wages and Allowance Money - - - 40 0 0
Ditto £8500 South-Sea Stock, at 3 and a half per Cent - - - 297 10 0	The Helpers Wages - - - - - 8 0 0
	The Boys Linen, Clothing, Washing, and Bedding, &c. 520 0 0
	The Butler's Allowance of one- twelfth part of the profits on Provisions bought - - - - - 140 0 0
Mem. old Stores, about - - - £.20 } Uncertain; Deceased Pensioners } not brought Money unclaimed 6 } into this ac- count.	The two Chaplains Allowance 60 0 0
	The Surgeon's ditto - - - - - 30 0 0
	Secretary's ditto - - - - - 20 0 0
	Steward's ditto - - - - - 20 0 0
	Clerk of the Cheque, and a Person for keeping a correspondence to prevent the illicit binding out the Boys - - - - - 21 0 0
	Dispenser - - - - - 20 0 0
	Organist, - - - - - 20 0 0
	Steward's first Clerk - - - - - 10 0 0
	Clerk of the Cheque's ditto - - - 10 0 0
	Surgeon's two Assistants - - - 20 0 0
	Dispenser's Assistant - - - - - 10 0 0
	The Chapel Clerk, - - - - - 3 0 0
	Sexton, - - - - - 2 0 0
	Physician, nothing
	£. 2144 0 0
	Balance - - - - - 203 10 0
	Total - - - - - £. 2,707 10 0

At a Council held in the Royal Hospital for Seamen, at Greenwich, January 16, 1778.

P R E S E N T

Lieutenant Governor BAILLIE,

Captain ALLWRIGHT,

Lieutenant KERR.

THE Nurses Bolton, Hendy, and Rose, having complained to the Council, that the Linen belonging to the Men under their care, was very badly washed, and not fit to be delivered to the Pensioners; and the following Pensioners, viz. William Seddon, John Ford, Aaron Johnson, Andrew Wilson, Thomas Rapley, Dennis Donavan, Christopher Clements, Allen McDonald, and several others, declared they were obliged to wash their own Linen after it came from the Laundry; and having produced their Shirts, Stocks, Towels, &c. and the same having been inspected by the Council, appeared very badly wash'd, dirty, and of a disagreeable smell; and the Nurses being examined to know whether they had complained to the Matron, answered, they had, but that the Linen was always returned in the same manner; that they had likewise complained to the Contractor, threatening to appeal to the Officers and Council of the House; and that he replied, that the Council had nothing to do with it; and that it was only the Matrons business to inspect into it: And it appearing to the Council that the complaint is just and well founded, and the washing of the Pensioners Linen equally bad throughout the Hospital: The Matrons are therefore hereby directed not to give certificates for any Linen that is not really clean and well washed.

By order of the Council,

DANIEL BALL.

(A Copy)

To THOMAS BAILLIE, Esq; Lieut. Governor, &c.

The humble Petition of PATRICK BRYAN

SHEWE TH, that your Honour's Petitioner, having served twenty-seven years in his Majestys Royal Navy, in several stations, as Quarter Gunner, Gunner's Mate, and Quarter Master; of which I have Certificates to prove; and having a Son, the whole care of which has devolved upon me, now seven years, by the death of my wife; and I have kept at school, and has proceeded in his learning, as far as the Rule of Three. He is now of age to come into the school, and as he is a very heavy burden upon me, on account of the lowness of my circumstances,

Humbly beg your Honour's mediation for that purpose, for which I shall, as in duty bound, ever pray.

As it is out of my power to afford that learning and other necessaries, sufficient to render him a useful member to society; and as my parish is in Ireland, I have no other refuge, or reliance, but God, and your Benevolence; and as such shall ever approve myself,

February 12, 1778.

Your obedient, and very humble Servant,

PATRICK BRYAN, Pensioner,

HONOURABLE SIR,

The humble Petition of RICHARD SAUNDERSON

MOST humbly craves the favour of your Honour to be so good as to stand my friend; I have a son that is almost twelve years of age, and almost starved to death, I being not capable to maintain him out of my allowance of this Royal Hospital.

Most Honourable Sir, your humble Petitioner most humbly craves the favour of your Honour to stand my friend, as to get my son into this Royal School of Greenwich. Honourable Sir, I being eighteen years and nine months in his Majestys Service; I was Captain of the Forecastle six years; and Captain of the After Guard, and Quarter Gunner all the rest of the time; and I never disbehaved to my superior Officers in my life time.

Most Honourable Sir, pray be so good as to take my poor child's condition into your christian heart's consideration; I shall for ever be in duty bound to pray for your honoured welfare, and all your honourable Family.

I am, honourable Sir, your very most humble,

And most obedient Servant to command,

To Capt. Baillie,
Lieut. Governor of Greenwich Hospital.

RICHARD SAUNDERSON,

Pensioner in the Royal House of Greenwich,

(A Copy)

HONOURABLE SIR,
The humble Petition of ELIZABETH Mc FADEN

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioner's husband died four years ago, a Pensioner of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich; and left me with Three young Children, whom I have endeavoured to make provision for, by honest industry and hard labour, not being able to support them; she is now reduced, Honourable Sir, with her poor fatherless children, into a most deplorable, miserable, and distressed condition, for want of the subsistence and necessaries of life: she hath a son, John Mc Faden, whom she most humbly presents to your Honourable Board, as a real object of Charity, for admission into the School of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich.

Therefore she most humbly begs the Honourable Board, being destitute of all friends, in being pleased to take her Son under your Honour's great protection, for his acceptance into the School, which would be the preservation of her child from misery and ruin,

Whose remaining part of life, in all gratitude and duty bound, ever pray.

Honourable Sir, she sent a petition into the Honourable Board, about thirteen months ago, with the Boy's age; and his Father's dead letter, now lodged in the office. He is now going, Sir, in the thirteenth year of his age.

To Capt. Baillie, Lieut. Gov. (A Copy)

[These three Petitions are selected from a great number of others, from different Pensioners and Nurses, in behalf of their Children, who, under the present Direction, cannot find an Asylum in Greenwich Hospital.]

An Account of the Proceedings of the COUNCIL of the ROYAL HOSPITAL for Seamen, at Greenwich, on the Sixth and Thirteenth of February, 1778.

Whilst the Council were sitting for the Administration of Justice in the Hospital, and a Variety of Business gone through, amongst other Petitions and Complaints, the following was received and read.

To the Honourable Gentlemen in COUNCIL,

The Complaint of DOROTHY PERRY, Nurse in the Surgeon's Infirmary,
MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH,

“ THAT she being in bed in her proper Cabin, on Monday the second of February; that on the said evening, betwixt the hours of 11 and 12 o'clock, John Huggin came with the Boatswain of the Guard, Thomas Henry, and others of the Guard then on duty with him, with halberds, candle, and lanthorn, and forced open the outside door of the room where the said Dorothy Perry lay; and also Nurse Boone, Nurse Evet, and Jenkins, was in bed in their Cabins. They said they came by order of Captain Maplesden, and insisted upon taking Nurse Perry out of her bed, in order to go before Captain Maplesden. They was desired to depart, and not cause such a disturbance at so unseasonable a time at night. Nurse Perry begged that her duty might be presented to Captain Maplesden; that she would wait on him by eight of the clock the next morning. The Answer was satisfactory to the Boatswain, but nothing would satisfy Huggin, but he insisted that Nurse Perry should be brought out with the Guard directly before the Captain, whereupon Nurse Perry and Jenkins got up and went with them before Captain Maplesden, who denied giving such orders.

“ Gentlemen, the truth of this may be certified by William Putney, who was then upon watch, and all the patients on the floor, if required, or called upon, as also the Nurses present, to testify the same; and what they have suffered through fright and confusion.”

IN consequence of this complaint, Thomas Henry the Boatswain, and the rest of the Guard were sent for by the Council; and they having, upon examination, confirmed the facts as stated in the petition, with many aggravating circumstances, the Council were therefore unanimously of opinion, that John Huggin should answer for his conduct the next Friday at Council, and he was accordingly summoned in the usual form for that purpose.

On the next Council-day, being the 13th, instead of a Council comprised, as it generally is, of Sea Officers only, all the Members of the *Civil Interest*, that could be collected, made their appearance; and as soon as the Members of the Council had taken their seats, and the proceedings of the former meeting been read,

The First Chaplain immediately moved, that the Plaintiff, previous to any thing else, be called in, and the following question put to her; which being carried by the strength of the Faction, she was called into court singly and alone, and the question put; viz. "The majority of the Council desire to know, whether you will, or will not withdraw the charge against John Huggin?"—Answer, "I have been ill used, and expect justice from the Council."—The *Civil Interest* being a good deal deranged at this reply, all interposed in a moment, saying, "What! do you reflect on the honor and justice of the government of the House (or words to that effect)—The question is, will, or will you not withdraw the charge?"—The astonished poor woman hesitated, and presented a paper, which she said contained her case more at large, and desired it might be read. This was however objected to, and over-ruled by the same party. The poor creature, then seeing the majority against her, said she had better leave the Hospital; and though the same question was put to her again and again, yet no other answer could be drawn from her, in the space of near half an hour, than that "it shall be just as you Gentlemen please."

The President, in this state of the case, thought proper to observe, that all this was begging the question of the person who was seeking justice, and had her witnesses ready to support the charge.—He was however abruptly interrupted by several speaking at once, that it was only begging the word *yes*, or *no*; that she must either withdraw the complaint, or desire to be heard.—Accordingly, she withdrew the charge against *Huggin*, but intimated, that as there were others concerned in the ill-usage towards her, she might perhaps find redress somewhere. Hereupon the Second Chaplain declared, that if ever she mentioned the affair again, he would give his vote to expel her from Greenwich Hospital.

The First Chaplain, seconded by the Steward, then moved that the Complaint against *Huggin*,* which was ordered by the preceding Council to be heard and examined, and which had been entered on the paper by the Clerk of the Council in their presence, be expunged; and that no record, either of the former or present Council, concerning this transaction, remain, or be entered in the Minute-book; which, being carried by a majority, was ordered accordingly.

Thus a business which might have been productive of very disagreeable consequences was cleverly got rid of, without any enquiry at all, and the poor Patients unfeelingly dismissed, who had been discomfited in the Infirmary by midnight revelling. This tyrannical and partial interference of a Mock Government in countenancing such tumultuous proceedings in an Infirmary, repressing the just complaints of an injured Widow, and thereby abandoning her to the future insults of an impudent Footman, is equally unjustifiable, and unpardonable; and is a fresh proof that all Legal Government in Greenwich Hospital is at an end.

* Two yearly Labourers are appointed for the Works of the Hospital; both are Landmen: one of these offices is entirely a *Sinecure*, and the other nearly approaching thereto. *Huggin* is one of those Labourers, and performs the office of Footman to the Clerk of the Works, and his Wife has lately been a Servant to the First Chaplain. These two Labourers stalk about the Hospital like Gentlemen, to the great mortification of the poor Pensioners, twenty-four of whom are House Labourers, and who literally perform all the drudgery of the Hospital for One Half of their Wages.—However trivial the appointment of Landmen, even to these inferior offices in the Hospital, may appear, yet it is the cause of much jealousy and heart-burning among the Pensioners.



M E M O R I A L.

BRITISH MUSEUM



TO THE
COMMISSIONERS and GOVERNORS
OF THE
Royal Hospital for Seamen,
At GREENWICH,



The MEMORIAL of Captain THOMAS BAILLIE, Lieu-
tenant Governor of the said Hospital, in behalf of
disabled Seamen, their Widows and Children,

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT through the various abuses set forth in the CASE prefixed, the BRITISH NAVY has been deprived of the full benefit of this wise and munificent Establishment, which the generosity of Princes, and the gratitude of the Public, had bestowed.

That LANDMEN have been introduced into the Hospital, contrary to CHARTER, and to the spirit of the Institution; and that some of the principal WARDS have been torn down, and converted, at a great expence, into grand apartments for OFFICERS, CLERKS, DEPUTIES, and SERVANTS, who are not SEAMEN.

That several Thousand Pounds are annually expended in repairs and alterations, under the pretext of finishing or carrying on the Building, though it is already sufficiently grand, roomy, and convenient.

That the settled and ample Revenues of the Hospital being wasted by this and other improper means, the present Managers, sheltering themselves under the popular character of the poor defenceless Men under their care, make frequent

quent application to Parliament for the Public Money, which they squander in a manner that has no tendency to promote the welfare of the Pensioners, or of the Sea-service.

That the Pensioners are fed with Bull-Beef and four Small Beer mixed with Water.

That the Contracting BUTCHER, after having been convicted in a public court of justice (the King's Bench) of various fraudulent breaches of his Contract, was, on a second prosecution, suffered to compound the Penalties, and renew the Contract: And that many evident and injurious Abuses in the supply of other Necessaries are daily suffered without any due enquiry.

That, under pretence of raising a Charity Stock for the Boys in the Hospital, the Pensioners are deprived of at least Two Thousand Five Hundred Pounds per annum out of their frugal allowance of Provisions, &c. settled at the first Establishment, and are compelled to accept of a part of the value in Money; which causes frequent Drunkenness, Irregularity, and Disobedience.

That these enormous abuses are the effects of the total subversion which the due Government of the Hospital has undergone, arising from the inattention of the great and respectable Characters who were appointed its perpetual GUARDIANS: And that the ACTING DIRECTORS, being in general concerned in the Receipt and Expenditure of the Revenues, are therefore improperly intrusted with the care of Controlling the Accounts, and of Directing the Affairs of the Hospital; yet that these Men have, by successive encroachments, extended the proper powers of the Board of Directors, and taken upon them a great part of the Government of the House, in the exercise of which they are deaf to every expostulation, or complaint, however reasonable in itself, or regularly urged.

That a Faction, under the title of the CIVIL INTEREST, is maintained in the Hospital, which consists of such OFFICERS, UNDER OFFICERS, DEPUTIES, CLERKS, and SERVANTS, as are not Seafaring Men, and who are therefore illegally appointed; which FACTION has kept the Hospital in a state of confusion and disorder for several years: And there is no pretence of right, or necessity, for their continuing in Offices to which SEAMEN alone have any claim, there being many brave Men fully qualified to execute the business of these Offices, who, after having fought the Battles of their Country, are now in a state of poverty and want.

That, independent of the obvious reflections suggested by Justice and Humanity on this occasion, the manner in which the Pensioners are supported in

Greenwich

Greenwich Hospital is a material subject of Political consideration; particularly at this interesting period, when the endeavours to obtain Volunteers for the Navy are unsuccessful.—Were a residence in the Hospital considered by Seamen in general as a desirable object, it would have an evident tendency to lessen their reluctance for his Majesty's service, as the loss of temporary advantages, or the dread of approaching hardships, can only be balanced by the hope of spending a comfortable Old-age. Now, the Hospital is so far from answering this valuable purpose at present, that it is mentioned among Seamen with disgust and dissatisfaction.

Till some effectual means are taken to remove this opinion, the material object of the foundation is entirely subverted, and the Hospital become a useless and expensive burthen to the Nation.—This can only be done by an entire change in the Management, and by faithfully and honestly expending the ample Revenues in the due maintenance of Seamen only. The news of such a general reform in the affairs of *Greenwich Hospital* would be received in the NAVY with joy and gratitude.

THE Lieutenant Governor thinks it necessary to represent, that in this application to the several Members of the Court of Commissioners and Governors, he has no interests for which he can hope or fear on his own account: He was placed in the Hospital by Lord ANSON, after a life of active service, with a view, as he presumes, that he might pass his remaining days in peace and retirement; but the sixteen years which he has spent in the Hospital have been the most painful, harrassing, and disagreeable of his whole life, as he has, during the greatest part of this term, been inevitably engaged in disputes and litigation with Jobbers, Agents, and Contractors, and in opposing the *Civil Interest* of this Naval Hospital; with whom he never had any other point to carry, than that the Pensioners should be peaceably and comfortably maintained, agreeably to the intention of the Founders, and to the establishment of the Hospital.

That the contest, so far as he is concerned in it, must, in the course of nature, be now nearly finished; but it appears to him an indispensable duty, to state the leading circumstances of the atrocious Facts which have been committed during his residence in the Hospital, to those who are in possession of the legal powers necessary for the speedy removal of the several causes of complaint herein recited,—in order that the ineffectual struggle which he has hitherto maintained may not be urged as an example to deter his Successors from the performance of their duty. The threat of this Appeal, though on many occasions it had produced salutary effects, has however lately been disregarded, from an opinion that it would never be made. It therefore became necessary that it should be actually made; and, though some parts of the

prefixed CASE, may seem rather tedious in the recital, yet the whole is confined to real instances of Fraud, Collusion, and Incapacity, all of which can be proved by the clearest and most indisputable evidence.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR takes the liberty to urge, in the most earnest manner, his anxious hope, that these complaints may excite a necessary degree of attention in the several Great and Noble Personages to whom they are now addressed; that a FULL COURT of COMMISSIONERS and GOVERNORS may be held, by whom these several charges may be heard and examined, the present evils redress'd, and effectual means devised for restoring the Hospital to the Navy, and for the proper maintenance of Seamen therein.—When have the interests of BRITAIN been deserted, or her defence neglected, by her NAVY?—It cannot be supposed, that a complaint of this magnitude, and importance to SEAMEN worn out and disabled in the service, can in this Country be urged in vain.

Amongst the leading measures to be adopted for the re-establishment of the Hospital, it will be necessary,

That the SIX-PENNY RECEIVER from Seamen's Wages, the ACCOMPTANT and COMPTROLLER of the Six-penny Office, the several PRIZE-AGENTS, SURVEYOR, and CHAPLAIN, be removed from the Direction; and a rule made, that their Successors be never in future appointed Directors of Greenwich Hospital.

That Persons of respectable and independent characters be appointed in their room, under such regulations as may be judged sufficient to induce and oblige them to attend to the important objects of their duty; and they be made responsible for the due execution of the trust. With respect to the present Direction, the old proverb, That every body's business is nobody's, seems to be truly verified.

That, instead of the great number of Governors, and the Twenty-four Directors, if Five Commissioners only were appointed, at 500*l.* per annum each, for the sole care of receiving, and faithfully and frugally expending, the ample Revenues of the Hospital, the Poor Men might be nobly provided with every necessary article of life, and more than the Salary of such Commissioners saved out of unnecessary Works, Repairs, and Alterations, in which case the Hospital would probably in a few years be restored to its proper degree of estimation and use.

That, if the present unwieldy Body of Governors, Commissioners, and Directors, should not be reduced to Five Commissioners, Two of the CAPTAINS be restored to the Direction, of which their Predecessors were deprived for being strenuous in the noble cause of protecting the Seamen under their care.

That

That the Internal Government of the whole House be restored to the GOVERNOR and COUNCIL : that this Council do consist of the Deputy Governor, the Four Captains, and only Four, instead of the Eight Lieutenants : and that the Secretary, Steward, and Chaplains, be removed therefrom, to prevent the forming of parties to embarrass and out-vote the principal Officers of the House, whenever they think proper to appear in Council ; thereby disturbing the peace and good government of the Hospital, for which the superior, and not the inferior Officers are responsible.

That the Two CHAPLAINS, the SECRETARY, STEWARD, and AUDITOR, with several Under-Officers, Deputies and Servants, who have not been Seafaring Men, and whose appointments are therefore illegal, be discharged the Hospital ; and that Navy Chaplains, and other Warrant Officers, &c. be appointed in their room.

That Two of the Three MATRONS, not being the Widows of Sea-Officers, be removed from the Hospital, and proper objects appointed in their stead, as there are now the Widows of Twenty-four Officers of different ranks serving in the mean capacity of common Nurses under these Matrons.

That GREENWICH HOSPITAL be, for the future, preserved, inviolably and exclusively, for the NAVY, as an *Asylum* for Disabled Seamen, their Widows, and Children ; and that, for their better security, the CHARTER (in which several essential Words, and even Clauses of the old Commissions are omitted) be surrendered to his MAJESTY, and an humble Petition presented for a new one, more consonant to the old COMMISSIONS.

That the APARTMENTS of the several OFFICERS who have no concern with the Internal Business or Government of the House be restored to the Hospital, they having no business but with the Court of Directors, of which the principal meetings are held in London.

That the ROYAL SOVEREIGN WARD in King WILLIAM's Building, now possessed by the SECRETARY'S CLERK, be restored to the Pensioners.

That the OFFICE of CLERK of the WORKS, being an useless Office, be abolished, as there can be no plea of necessity for such an Officer, whilst there is a Surveyor, and no new Buildings carrying on : That the present CLERK of the WORKS be obliged to surrender to the Wards the Suite of Apartments he possesses, and to restore the Posts and Rails which out of mere caprice he destroyed, though erected, at a considerable expence, round all the outer walls of the Hospital, for the safety, ease and comfort of the Blind, Lame, and Infirm Pensioners, who are now frequently hemmed in between two walls, to their great terror, and at the risque of their lives from droves

of horned cattle, horses, &c.—These Walks, which were formerly called *The Blind Men's Walks*, are now become common nuisances to people of all ranks who visit the Hospital.

That the APARTMENTS of the Lieutenants GORDON and KERR, of the CLERK of the CHEQUE, and of two of the MATRONS, be restored to the Wards; and that lodgings be found for them in the apartments of the Non-qualified Officers, or in the New Building now occupied by the Governor's Clerk, Steward's Clerk, and a person called the Clerk of the Works' Clerk.

That the Clerk of the Cheque's Clerk's apartment be restored to the Wards.

That all the Public Passages, Windows, Doors, and Stair-cases, which have been monopolized, be thrown open for the convenience of the Officers and Strangers who visit the Wards, and for the admission of fresh Air, which is so necessary to the Health of the numerous Inhabitants. The Stair-cases now in use are narrow and dangerous, and, in case of fire, would be insufficient for the retreat of a crowd of people, as some of the principal Wards are barricaded up at both ends for the magnificent accommodation of Individuals, who have converted the grand Passages into Galleries for Pictures, and the Roof into Lodging-rooms with chimneys where none were originally designed.

That the Butler's List and Chalk-off List, which are so hostile to the Establishment, be totally abolished; and that the Tables in the Dining-halls be filled with Pensioners, and served with their full allowance of Provisions; it being intended, according to the Rules of the House, that they should dine in public, as a spectacle for the encouragement of Seamen. The Soup-maire now served to the Men dishonours the Hospital, and was publicly ridiculed in the Dining-hall by his Excellency the Duc de Nivernois.

That such of the Pensioners and Nurses, as from age, infirmities, or other reasonable causes, shall be put on the Money-List by the Governor and Council, and not by the Directors, may receive the full Value of their Provisions; and that the late order procured by the Secretary, from the General Court, to empower the Directors to dispense with the mustering the Pensioners on certain occasions, be rescinded, as being repugnant to the Charter, and infringing upon the government of the House, and the custom of the Hospital.

That the Charity Stock be thrown into the general Fund of the Hospital, and such Boys as may be judged proper objects of this Charity be better fed than at present, as a growing Boy requires at least as much sustenance as an old Man.

That the Pensioners and Nurses on the Money-List shall not be deprived of their

their Festival Dinners; which is an Extra-gift to all without distinction, in commemoration of the Five great Anniversaries,

To The Royal Founder's Coronation,—King's Birth-day,
Queen's Birth-day,—Accession, and Coronation.

The non-enjoyment of these days of mirth and festivity is a real grievance to three or four hundred poor people.

That Two Lieutenants be present at the Dining-halls at dinner; and that the Chaplain of the month say grace, instead of an old Pensioner.

That the Captain or Lieutenant of the Week do always see the Meat delivered and weighed, agreeably to a former minute of the Council, in order to increase the present checks, which have been found insufficient. This laudable regulation has been lately over-ruled.

That the Steward's Clerk be never in future allowed to perform the duty of the Clerk of the Council.

That the Secretary make all the Contracts, as formerly, agreeable to established forms, in order to avoid the great expence of Attorney's Bills; and that he be not permitted to make a bill for Travelling charges, being allowed 20*l.* a year for that purpose.

That the Stewards of the *Derwentwater* Estate, and the Receiver of the Six-pences, be obliged to remit to the Treasurer and Receiver-General all such Money as they may receive on account of the Hospital, as soon as it shall amount to the sum of 500*l.*—in order that there may be but one Treasurer. And that the Board of Directors be not allowed to extend their proper powers by impresting, or advancing large sums of Money to Contractors, or Tradesmen, as the warrants for the payment of all monies ought to be signed quarterly at the General Court.

That all Admeasurements of the Works of the Hospital be made with the assistance of a Sworn Surveyor; and that all the Works, Alterations, and Repairs, be sworn to before the Barons of the Exchequer, by the Surveyor of the Hospital, the Clerk of the Check, and the Clerk of the Works, as having been faithfully and truly performed, according to the best of their skill and judgment; in conformity to a minute of the Board of Directors in the year 1718, and to the custom of those times when the affairs of the Hospital were conducted with integrity.

That the Steward be sworn to all his Accounts and Disbursements, being near 30,000*l.* per annum.

That

That the Receiver of the Six-penny Office (as well as his Clerk) be sworn to his Accounts and Disbursements.

That the Brewer be sworn to the faithful and frugal expenditure of the Malt and Hops; and that, if any Beer be condemned on a regular survey, the value of good Beer be deducted out of his wages.

That the Household and other Accounts of the Hospital be examined at the table where the Board of Directors sit, and not partially and superficially passed by Two Interested Members, at a separate table; and that Five of the Directors, after proper examination, do attest the said Accounts with their Names at length, instead of the initial letters of Two Names only.

That all the Accounts and Disbursements of the Hospital be sworn to, before the Barons of the Exchequer; which is now performed partially.

That the Auditor be obliged to audit all the Accounts of the Hospital.

That the pay of the Lieutenants be made equal to the pay of the two Chaplains, as originally intended.

That the General Courts be held four times at least in the year, agreeably to the first Commissions, the business of this court being much increased: That due notice of the several meetings be given in the Gazette, and the business made as public as possible, instead of being privately passed, it being a matter of public concern.

That these Courts be held in the Painted Hall in the Hospital, in order to add to the splendour of the meetings, by accommodating a sufficient number of Great Personages, for the more effectual protection of Seamen, their Widows, and Children.

All which premises are most humbly submitted to the wisdom and humanity of the Right Honorable the LORDS and other COMMISSIONERS and GOVERNORS of the ROYAL HOSPITAL for SEAMEN at GREENWICH, (who are the Guardians and Guarantees of the Rights of Seamen in the said Royal Hospital, and who alone are able to give the poor Pensioners speedy and effectual Relief,) by

Their most respectful

and faithful Servant,

THOMAS BAILLIE.

